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King offers condolences to Assad; Arab leaders, Demirel telephone HM

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein, who is recuperating in his private residence in London after a surgical operation for the removal of an abscess, Monday called Syrian President Hafez Al Assad to offer his condolences on the death of Mr. Assad's brother, Ismail, last week. President Assad congratulated the King on the success of the surgery and wished him speedy recovery. King Hussein also Monday received calls from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Turkish President Suleiman Demirel and President Yasser Arafat who congratulated the King on his recovery. The King received a cable from Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Sa'd Hayel Srour, who congratulated the King on the success of the surgery on behalf of members of the House.

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Jordan wants to settle water rights with Syria

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government has announced that it was time that Jordan and Syria settled their water rights in the Yarmouk River, a local paper reported Monday. Al Ra'i Arabic daily quoted a Ministry of Water source as saying that the water agreement signed between the two countries in 1987 needed to be reviewed after Syria built 30 dams on the Yarmouk instead of 22 agreed between the two sides. The source told Al Ra'i that the 1987 agreement gives Jordan 120 million cubic metres of water that it was not getting. The source, which did not reveal the amount Jordan was getting now, said the Kingdom should be able to build a dam downstream on the river to tap the agreed amount of water. The government announced this week that water deficit this year for domestic consumption would reach 55 million cubic metres.

Regent sends cables to Mubarak, Sultan Qaboos

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Monday cabled Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, expressing his good wishes on the anniversary of the Egyptian revolution. The Regent also Monday sent a cable to Sultan Qaboos of Oman, expressing good wishes on the anniversary of his assumption of his constitutional powers. He wished the sultan good health and happiness and continued progress and prosperity for the Omani people.

Arafat to visit Syria Thursday

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat will visit Damascus on Thursday to coordinate positions on Middle East peace moves with President Hafez Al Assad, an aide said on Monday. The one-day visit will be Mr. Arafat's first to Syria since the Palestinian leader returned to Gaza in 1994 under a self-rule deal with Israel. "The president will hold consultations with President Assad on coordinating stands following the Cairo Arab summit," Mr. Arafat's media adviser Nabil Abu Rdainah told Reuters. "We look forward to this visit and accord it much importance." Mr. Arafat and Mr. Assad met in Cairo in June during the first Arab summit meeting in six years.

Israel court freezes Palestinian women release

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Israel's high court on Monday temporarily barred the release of two jailed Palestinian women whom President Ezer Weizman had decided to pardon, a court spokesman said. Spok-esman Moshe Goral said the court put the release on hold at least until Thursday when a petition against freeing the women brought by a right-wing Israeli group would be heard by a three-judge high court panel. Last Thursday, Mr. Weizman's spokeswoman said the president had decided to pardon two Palestinian women convicted of murder. He had previously refused to free the two because they had "blood on their hands." The army said on Sunday it was weighing pardoning three other Palestinian women who had been convicted in military courts of murder. All five were expected to be released this week.

Government says bread prices will be hiked to avoid economic crisis

By Sa'd Hattar

AMMAN (AFP) — The government on Monday swept aside angry protests from Islamic-led opposition parties saying a controversial rise in bread prices would go ahead to avert economic crisis. Information Minister Marwan Muasher said bread prices had to be increased to reduce the budget deficit but stressed the government would bring in compensation to ease the burden on the public. "The government will pay each and every Jordanian the price difference before announcing its decision," Dr. Muasher told a weekly press briefing. The government has pledged that each Jordanian, including displaced Palestinians and refugees, would receive an annual wage increase to offset the hike in bread prices. Only the 1.2 million tourists and 400,000 foreign residents and workers will therefore be

affected by the increased costs. By raising the price 300 per cent from 85 fils to 255 fils, the government hopes to slash 40 per cent from bread subsidies, expected to hit a record high of \$150 million in 1996. The opposition has argued the increased cost will further squeeze the Kingdom's poorest. Dr. Muasher said that the government's "aim is to curb unwarranted surplus and waste of bread consumption due to its low price." He said the government was selling wheat at a fifth of its international price, adding some cattle dealers were even feeding it to their stock instead of grass because it was so cheap. "We buy the tonne of wheat for JD 252 and supply it to consumers for JD 52," he said. "Our annual consumption of wheat is currently set at 660,000 tonnes and the price hike is set to cut the consumption to normal rates of 400,000."

The JD 150 million projected deficit in the Kingdom's JD 1.8 billion annual budget now threatens to derail an International Monetary Fund (IMF)-monitored reform programme. On Sunday, 11 opposition parties, led by the Islamic Action Front, together with unions and women's groups, tried to hold a sit-in in front of Parliament. Only a few dozen managed to stage a protest near the building, after access was sealed off by large numbers of police. Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti has challenged opposition figures to take part in a live televised debate, when he would defend his government's decision. Some 41 deputies have also joined the chorus of protest signing a petition urging the government to scrap its plans or face a vote of no-confidence. The opposition says a petition bearing 30,000 signatures protesting the plans has been delivered



Dr. Marwan Muasher

to Parliament Speaker Sa'd Hayel Srour. The opposition has also announced a planned sit-in Friday. It is not clear yet whether the deputies opposed to the price hike will call for a no-confidence in the government.

Indications are, however, that not all the lawmakers opposed to raising bread prices will go as far as withdrawing confidence from the government to press for a reversal of the decision. Twenty-two out of the 80 members of the House are ministers.

De Charette meets Assad; Ashrawi says Orient House not on itinerary

LATAKIA, Syria (Agencies) — French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette met Syrian President Hafez Al Assad on Monday at the start of a Middle East tour to sound out Arab and Israeli leaders on the state of the peace process. Mr. De Charette was to receive Mr. Assad's "impressions" of the impact on the region of the accession to power of right-wing Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Israel, diplomats said. He earlier held talks with Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al-Sharaa and stressed "the need to remain committed to the principles of peace based on U.N. resolutions and on the exchange of land-for-peace," the official news agency SANA said. The two diplomats also praised Franco-Syrian relations and vowed to boost them, SANA said. The government-run press here said Syria was pleased Europe was showing

an interest in salvaging the stalled peace process. "At a time when the Americans keep hands folded vis-a-vis the Israeli intransigent policy for electoral reasons, Europe's role emerges stronger than ever before," the Syria Times said. After spending Monday night in Latakia on Syria's Mediterranean coast, Mr. De Charette will fly to Beirut. He will also visit Jordan before going to Israel, the Gaza Strip, and Egypt during his three-day tour. Mr. De Charette was accompanied by diplomat Jean-Michel Gausson, who represents France on a committee to monitor the ceasefire brokered between Israel, Lebanon and Hizbollah guerrillas after an Israeli offensive in South Lebanon in April. U.S. State Department coordinator for the Middle East Dennis Ross was also due in the region late Monday for talks on the future

of the peace process. When he visits, Jerusalem, Mr. De Charette will avoid the Orient House, the PLO unofficial headquarters in occupied Jerusalem, a Palestinian minister said. "Mr. De Charette will not visit Orient House. He will meet a Palestinian delegation at the French consulate" instead, Higher Education Minister Hanan Ashrawi told AFP. "We are not angry at France because we know the French position concerning Jerusalem," she added. Hassan Asfur, head of Palestinian negotiations with Israel, said only that the Palestinians "could not impose their point of view on France." Palestinian leaders had said Monday they hoped that Mr. De Charette would visit Orient House in defiance of Israel, which has put intense pressure on Paris to avoid including it in his itinerary.

"We would like Mr. De Charette to come to Orient House as other French leaders have done before him," said one official at Orient House who asked to remain anonymous. Mr. De Charette is the first European minister to visit Jerusalem since the right-wing Israeli government assumed power last month and pledged to stop all Palestinian political activity in East Jerusalem. "The French government is perfectly aware of the Israeli position concerning any visit to Orient House," Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman Danny Shek said Monday. A spokesman for the French Foreign Ministry in Paris said Friday his government would not cave in to any external pressure on the issue, but at the same time did not commit the minister to visiting Orient House. "We will do what we consider to be useful," he said.

12 dead, 14 injured in Algeria massacre

ALGIERS (AFP) — Twelve people died and 14 were injured when extremists attacked a bus carrying employees of an Algerian state-owned company, the press reported here Monday. The massacre Saturday at Keddara, 50 kilometres southeast of Algiers, was one of the worst acts of violence this year in Algeria, where the government and Armed Islamist groups continue a virtual civil war that has killed up to 50,000 people since the annulment of December 1991 elections. The driver of the bus, carrying employees of the National Industrial Vehicles Corp. tried to break through a bogus checkpoint but was stopped by automatic weapons fire, a survivor told the daily Le Matin. The attackers forced the passengers off the bus and singled out five people by name before decapitating them with machetes, the survivor said from his hospital bed. He said several bombs exploded killing seven people, including two villagers who ran towards the bus to help after hearing gun shots. In the past five days more than 20 people have been killed and about 100 others injured in bomb attacks by Islamist militants.

Israel thanks Iran over return of dead soldiers, admits indirect contact

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel took a rare step towards Iran when it acknowledged its role in the return of the remains of two Israeli soldiers by the pro-Iranian Hizbollah in Lebanon. Hizbollah handed Israel on Sunday the bodies of two soldiers missing for a decade in exchange for the remains of 123 guerrillas. It also freed 17 pro-Israeli South Lebanon Army (SLA) militiamen in return for 45 prisoners held by the SLA in Lebanon. "There is no question about an Iranian decision to go ahead with this particular exchange. Whether that signifies a broader change I cannot say," Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu told reporters after the German-brokered swap. In recent years, Israel has accused Iran of sponsoring Muslim militant groups bent on destroying the Jewish state and the Middle East peace process. Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said after the exchange: "As a goodwill gesture I want to thank everyone who dealt in this humanitarian deed — in Lebanon, in Syria and in Iran... and I want to ask them to continue in their efforts." The two Israeli servicemen reached their final resting place Monday, in back-to-back funerals attended by thousands of mourners and Israel's prime minister. Mr. Netanyahu, who attended both funerals, said he hoped peace would bring an end to the pain caused by war. "We were given the right to ease the suffering of mourning parents by bringing their children home," Mr. Netanyahu said as he stood over Fink's grave. "In their memories we will strive for true peace, so that there will be no more mourning parents."

Fink and Alsheikh's coffins, draped in blue and white Israeli flags, were buried with full military honours. Soldiers wearing purple herets of the Givati Brigade in which both men served escorted the coffins to the gravesites. In Beirut on Monday, Hizbollah leader Sheikh Hassan Nasrallah pledged to help search for Israeli air force captain Ron Arad, missing since his plane was shot down over Lebanon on Oct. 17, 1986. Sheikh Nasrallah said the release of about 70 more Lebanese prisoners was linked to the fate of Arad, whom Israel believes may still be alive and held by Iran. He said Hizbollah had lost track of Arad shortly after his capture, but promised "to help find out his whereabouts." Iran denies holding Arad. Despite the positive political climate spurred by the prisoner swap, Sheikh Nasrallah said his group would not abandon its guerrilla war against Israeli troops occupying a border enclave in South Lebanon. "What happened yesterday has nothing to do with the our resistance operations," he said. "We will continue our struggle until the enemy is out of Lebanon." Sheikh Nasrallah revealed Monday for the first time that both Fink and Alsheikh died within a few hours of their capture from wounds suffered in the ambush. The remains of 123 Hizbollah guerrillas arrived on 17 trucks Monday to the Lebanese village Kfar Tibnit. Dozens of frenzied relatives leaped onto the trucks looking for the bodies of their loved ones. Some caskets were labelled with names but others bore only numbers, making verification difficult. (Continued on page 3)

More bodies, major part of plane found

EAST MORICHES, New York (AP) — Searchers scouring the ocean floor off New York on Monday found a large piece of the wreckage of TWA Flight 800 while families of its 230 victims were at a sea-side memorial service, the governor said. "God works in very strange ways," Gov. George Pataki said at the close of the ceremony. "While we were here, a major part of the fuselage has been found. Additional bodies have been located." No details were available, and federal officials leading the search had no immediate confirmation of Mr. Pataki's statement. National Transportation Safety Board Vice-Chairman Robert Francis had said earlier that investigators were having trouble

finding a 4.6-metre-high object that might be a large section of the airliner. The ship that originally spotted the object lacked sophisticated navigational equipment, making it hard to relocate, Mr. Francis had said on NBC's "Today" show. A large chunk of wreckage could provide clues as to what downed the jet. The FBI noted Sunday that every delay gives any terrorist who might be responsible extra time to avoid capture. The navy resumed its search Monday in improving ocean conditions, with waves around 0.6 metres high and moderate wind. The Coast Guard continued collecting debris on the surface near the crash site, about 19 kilometres off eastern New York's Long

Island. In Denver, President Bill Clinton asked the nation to sympathise with the crash victims' families, who are frustrated that the recovery of their loved ones' bodies has been so slow. "It is literally an agonising process," Mr. Clinton said. "We can all imagine how we would feel if we were in their place. I want the families to know I am working as hard as I can to speed this process, to make it as easy as possible." On Sunday, families and friends of the victims gathered at dozens of memorial services across the country. Another service was held Monday, a waterfront gathering at one of the closest land points to the crash site. Mr. Pataki, who arranged the service, told the grieving families, "there are no

right answers when someone you love is gone." Mourners clutched roses that were then taken to the site and thrown in the water. Of the 101 bodies recovered so far, 53 had been positively identified, authorities said Monday. Suffolk County medical examiner Dr. Charles Wetli has said identifying the rest of the recovered bodies could take "several more days." Mr. Pataki ordered more pathologists to the scene to help. Weather and heavy seas have hampered the search, and crucial sonar snagged on the ocean floor and now needs to be retrieved. An underwater videocamera failed to work. The search for the Boeing 747's two "black boxes" (Continued on page 3)

U.N. arms experts leave Iraq, tension remains

Iraqi oil exports could start in August, MEES reports

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — A team of United Nations arms experts left Baghdad on Monday after Iraqi authorities again prevented them from entering sensitive sites.

Iraq had blocked chief arms inspector Nikita Smidovich and his 34 experts from entering a site in the outskirts of Baghdad and a U.N. source said the team's unscheduled departure was a signal that problems over access remained.

"I am not sure be (Smidovich) did all that he had in mind given the 60-hour delay because of Iraq's refusal to allow entry to the site," said the source, who declined to be named.

Iraqi and U.N. sources confirmed that Mr. Smidovich and a few members of his team did make it to the site following a demand by the U.N. Security Council on Friday that Baghdad provide immediate and unconditional access.

"It was no immediate access. They found some solution but UNSCOM (U.N. Special Commission on Iraq) is not very happy," the U.N. source said.

He accused Iraq of backtracking on earlier promises not to block U.N. searches of materials and documents banned under the 1991 Gulf war ceasefire.

The Iraqis maintain that they did not prevent Mr. Smidovich from entering the site but barred his inspectors from using what they described as a "presidential highway" to reach it.

They said they were still committed to a June 22 agreement UNSCOM's Chairman Rolf Ekeus signed with Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz granting U.N. inspectors immediate access to all sites in Iraq provided they fully respected Iraq's concerns over national sovereignty.

Under the agreement only four U.N. arms experts are allowed to enter sites deemed as "sensitive" by Iraq and they should be accompanied by a senior official with a ministerial rank.

Kuwait worried by Iraq military strength

KUWAIT (R) — Iraq's army has strengthened since its 1991 Gulf war defeat and this worries Kuwait, the Gulf state's defence minister said in remarks published on Monday.

The minister, Sheikh Ahmad Hamoud Al-Sabah, told Al-Anba newspaper Kuwait had rebuilt 70 per cent of its military following its destruction and looting by Iraq during Baghdad's 1990-91 occupation.

Referring to Iraq's army, he said: "Its situation now is much better than it was five years ago. They conduct training around the year. This force is still considered a major worry for US."

Iraq invaded its small neighbour in August 1990 after months of quarrels about the border, oil policy and financial aid. A U.S.-led coalition liberated Kuwait in February 1991.

Sheikh Ahmad said Kuwait's 15,000-strong armed forces had to make up for their limited size by buying advanced weaponry and training soldiers to use them well.

"We need very qualified individuals," he said. "We have to improve our army by depending on technology and advanced equipment to make up for small size."

Mr. Smidovich and three of his inspectors did enter one such site during their seven-day mission accompanied by General Dhaif Akbul Majeed, chairman of Iraq's Military Industrialisation Commission.

Mr. Ekeus had called off the inspectors when Iraqis insisted Mr. Smidovich could not use the highway.

The U.N. source said the inspectors then split into two groups, one resuming spot searches of military sites and the other investigating how Iraq concealed information from them.

Meanwhile, a specialist weekly published in Nicosia said Iraq could start exporting oil for the first time in six years in August under the U.N.-approved oil-for-food deal.

"The U.N. sanctions committee is expected to approve this week the guidelines for oil sales," said the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES), adding that "barring unforeseen developments" oil sales would begin in August.

United Nations Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali on Thursday

plan rejected by Washington on June 27, allocates spending of \$1.32 billion on humanitarian supplies for the first six months, said MEES.

A further sum of around \$200 million has been set aside for water, power, agriculture, education and sanitation projects, the Review added.

Erbakan opposed to U.S. presence, Iraq says

In Baghdad, an official newspaper said Monday it was convinced that new Turkish Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan opposed the presence of U.S. forces in Turkey which provide cover for Kurdish rebels in northern Iraq.

"Erbakan and many officials have repeated that Turkey's interest is to set up good neighbourly ties with Iraq and that they plan to boost trade with Iraq following the U.N. oil-for-food deal," the official Al Thawra newspaper said.

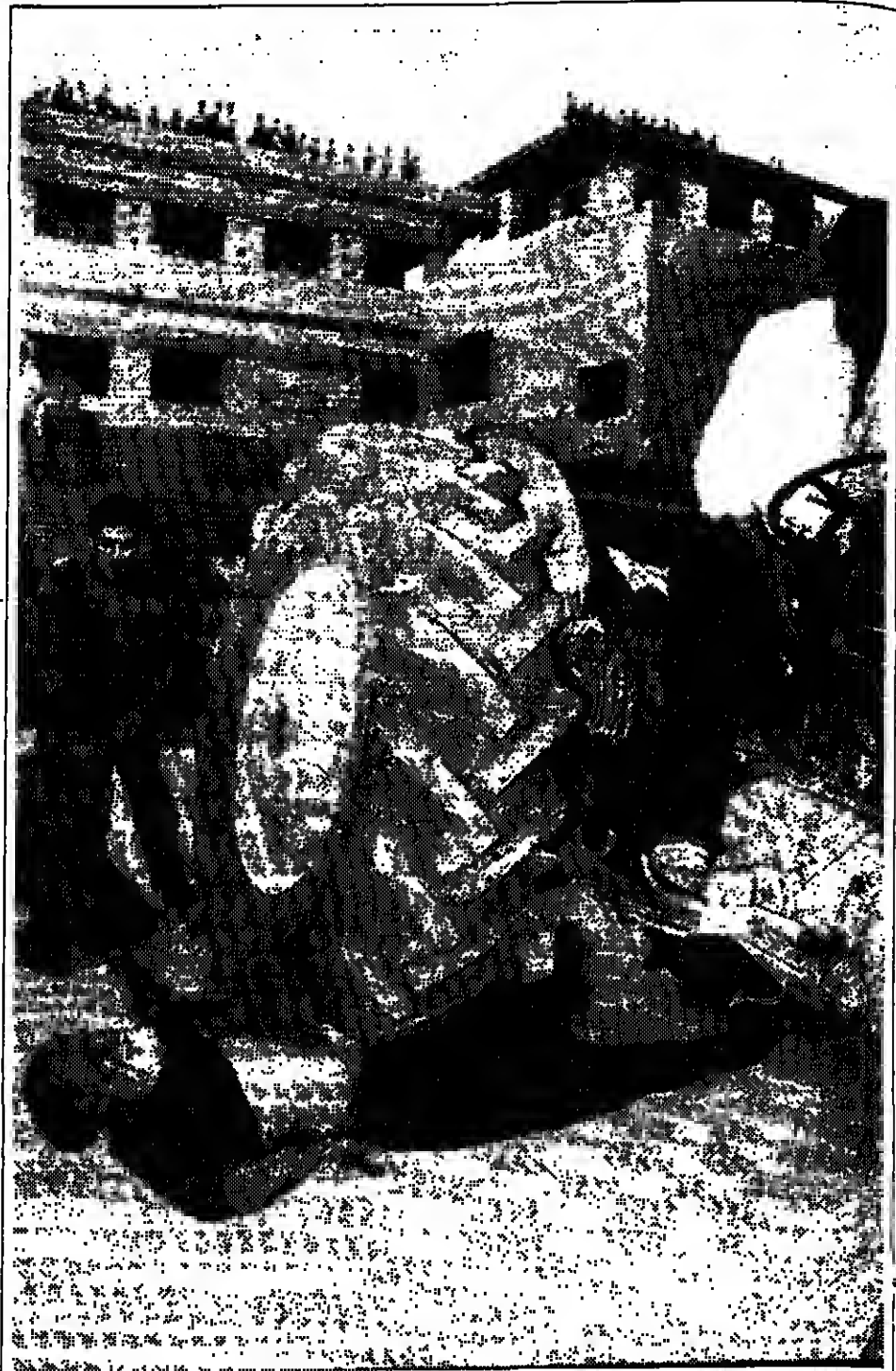
"Different Turkish government and opposition officials are increasingly opposed to the presence of American troops on Turkish soil," Al Thawra said.

"But Mrs. Albright does not want to understand this and thinks Turkish politicians can close their eyes to the presence of these troops which threaten the security of Turkey and neighbouring countries, particularly Iraq," it said.

Madeleine Albright, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, said in Ankara Friday that Turkey and the United States had reached an agreement in principle to continue the operation dubbed "Provide Comfort."

The Turkish parliament is to review the mission involving allied forces in the next few days.

On July 12 Iraq and Turkey signed a framework cooperation agreement after a Turkish delegation visited Baghdad.



A TRACTOR RUNS OVER A MAN IN A DAMASCUS SHOW: A 3.5-tonne tractor runs over Terki Abu Hadeer, 47, during a show in Jaramana near Damascus Sunday. Mr. Abu Hadeer claims to have developed his strength by field exercises and has never seen a doctor (Reuters photo)

'Palestinians going thirsty'

HEBRON, West Bank (R) — Many Palestinians in the West Bank are suffering from serious water shortages leaving them thirsty all year round, a Palestinian water expert has said.

Nabil Sharif, chief Palestinian negotiator with Israel on water issues, on Monday said the most acute shortages were in the cities of Hebron, Bethlehem and Jenin.

"The water problem is serious...in Hebron because of shortage of water sources and high consumption," said Mr. Sharif.

The state-owned Israeli water company Mekorot supplies water to Hebron, which is under Israeli rule. The company continues to provide water to six major West Bank cities Israel handed over to Palestinian rule in 1995. Water is one of the key issues in the currently suspended peace talks between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Last year Israel recognised the water rights of Palestinians under the Oslo II peace accord, but no detailed agree-

ment has yet been reached.

Israel delayed a planned security agreement in Hebron for security reasons. Hebron is the only West Bank Palestinian city with a Jewish settler population. Some 400 Jews live among more than 100,000 Arabs.

"There are also around 230 villages out of a total 400 in the West Bank which are not connected to water pipelines and have no water," Mr. Sharif told Reuters.

"Some people in some areas still get water from springs in buckets and transfer them to their homes on horseback."

In Hebron, especially in the hilly areas, people can be seen carrying buckets to fill water from nearby springs.

An employee at the Hebron municipality said people wait for days, sometimes weeks for their turn to buy water which is then sent to their homes in tanks. Each tank costs approximately \$50 and lasts about a week.

He said, however, that Jewish settlers in Hebron had an abundance of water.

"The settlers have swimming pools, the government sends them water tanks and their children play with water, while we can't find water to drink. We even have to buy water although we can't afford bread because of bad economic conditions," said the employee who did not want to be identified.

Water expert Taber Nassereddin said water consumption in Hebron reached 22,000 cubic metres daily, but the actual quantity of water pumped to the city, he said, was about 5,000 cubic metres.

"This is a very small quantity of water for around 100,000 people in Hebron, which is almost one quarter of their daily needs," Mr. Nassereddin told Reuters.

An Israeli delegation from the left-wing Meretz Party brought four tanks of water to Hebron on Sunday to distribute to Palestinians. "We came here today to show solidarity with the Palestinians and to fight the Israeli government's policy of providing settlers with water at the expense of the Palestinians," said Meretz member Yoel Vindberg.

Birzeit University launches sustained archaeological excavation, invites support from interested donors

By Rami G. Khouri
Special to the Jordan Times

THE PALESTINIAN Institute of Archaeology at Birzeit University has marked a milestone in its plan to develop an indigenous Palestinian archaeological tradition by initiating a long-term field project at Khirbet Birzeit, north of Ramallah in Palestine.

The director of the institute, Khaled Nasbeh, said on a visit to Amman earlier this week that the project's first season this summer aims to excavate two small areas, conduct an environmental survey of the site, and make a preliminary examination of the standing remains of the central structure.

Though Palestinian scholars have conducted salvage excavations before, this project marks the first sustained, long-

term Palestinian scholarly effort to explore the ancient history and culture of Palestine. The results of the dig will be published by the university, launching a Palestinian tradition of publications based on the evaluation of primary data and original fieldwork.

Dr. Nasbeh explains that the project still requires financial support to complete this first season. The institute raised \$11,000 and still seeks some \$14,600 to fully fund the planned work. This summer's six-week season runs from July 13 to Aug. 21.

Dr. Nasbeh lectured in Amman earlier this year upon the invitation of the Jordanian Friends of Archaeology Society (FOA), which is now finalising a cooperation agreement with the Palestinian Institute of Archaeology (PIA) that will see both

institutions exchange lectures, visits, publications and other services.

The Palestinian Institute of Archaeology's research programme at Khirbet Birzeit, thought to be the original location of Birzeit, is planned as a long-term project. In keeping with the general policy of PIA, the project emphasises environmental aspects much neglected in previous archaeological research.

The project is one of the key elements of PIA's strategy to develop a research framework for its planned higher studies programme.

Khirbet Birzeit is located in the vicinity of Birzeit, some seven kilometres north of Ramallah. At over 800 metres above sea level, it has a commanding view of the surrounding terrain. It overlooks the ancient hill country to the coastal plain. Its archaeological

remains indicate settlement from the Iron Age through the Ottoman period. The dominant and central feature of the site is a 20-metre-wide structure with two barrel-vaulted halls, some of the walls of which appear to have been fortified. The structure was originally ascribed to a date not earlier than the Byzantine period, but subsequently believed to belong to Crusader times. It also appears that some Mamluk elements have been added to the original building. Other ruins on the summit include rock-tombs thought to date to the Iron Age. It has been suggested that there may be Iron Age occupation of the site, possibly underneath the central structure.

It is generally believed that Khirbet Birzeit represents the location of ancient Birzeit attested in the Classical sources as

Berzetho. Dr. Nasbeh told the Jordan Times. This assumption finds support in the fact that the modern village of Birzeit used to be called Al Mamsiyye (i), according to some of its older inhabitants. According to Josephus, Berzetho (reflecting Aramaic *Ber Zetha), apparently corresponds to Birzeit, is the place where Judas Maccabeus pitched his last camp before he was defeated by the Seleucid army in 160 BC. The original report of First Book of the Maccabees diverges strongly from Josephus, presenting a set of problems related to the identification of ancient sites.

Interested donors can contact the institute at Birzeit University at fax 972-2-9957656 or telephone 972-2-9982974, or by post at P.O. Box 14, Birzeit, West Bank, Palestine.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

- 15:00 Iris The Happy Professor
- 15:15 Captain Planet
- 15:30 Hot Shots
- 16:10 Olympia
- 17:00 News Flash
- 17:02 Sciences Cartoon
- 17:15 La Vie Devant
- Moi
- 17:30 Game Show
- 18:00 Medical Magazine — Savoir Plus Sante
- 19:00 Le Journal
- 19:15 Magazine — Ushuaia
- 19:30 News Headlines
- 19:35 Blossom
- 20:00 Documentary
- 20:30 Encounter
- 21:10 Star Trek
- 22:00 News in English
- 22:30 Human Target
- 23:15 Hawaii 5-0
- 23:45 My Two Wives

PRAYER TIMES

- 04:03 Fajr
- 05:36 (Sunrise) Duha
- 12:41 Dhuhur
- 16:22 Asr
- 19:47 Maghrib
- 21:20 Isha

CHURCHES

- St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifeth, Tel. 810740
- Assemblies of God Church Tel. 632785
- St. Joseph Church Tel. 624390

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

- Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
- De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
- Terra Sancta Church Tel. 623666
- Anglican Church Tel. 652826
- Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
- Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
- St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
- Amman International Church Tel. 652526
- Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328
- German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 845457
- The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
- Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691
- The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295
- English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish Tel. 614190

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Moderate weather conditions will prevail with northwesterly moderate to active. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate to active and seas calm.

- Min./Max. temp. 13/30
- Amman 24/38
- Aqaba 24/38
- Deserts 17/33
- Jordan Valley 23/36
- Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 29, Aqaba 36 Humidity readings: Amman 43 per cent, Aqaba 37 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Jamal Jbarah 847351

Dr. Abbas Al Hakim 885446

Dr. Arafaat Al Ashhab 602507

Dr. Mohammad Al Izzah 778959

Ferdows pharmacy 778336

Al Asema pharmacy 637055

Al Salam pharmacy 636730

Yacoub pharmacy 644945

Shmeisani pharmacy 637660

Nalroukh pharmacy 623672

Najib pharmacy 847632

IRBID:

Dr. Mazin Abu Bakir 276852

Al Quds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Hilal Al Sayyid 986702

Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Dept 661111

Civil Defence Immediate Res-

- 813813/32
- Khalidi Maternity 644281/6
- Akileh Maternity 642441/2
- Jabal Amman Maternity 637777
- Madnas, J. Amman 636140
- Palestine, Shmeisani 607071
- Shmeisani Hospital 669131
- University Hospital 845845
- Al-Moasher Hospital 66727/9
- The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37
- Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
- Italian, Al-Mohajreen 777101/3
- Al-Bashir 775111/26
- Army, Marka 891611/15
- Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
- Amal Hospital 674155
- The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery 865199
- ZARQA:
- Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)83323
- Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560
- Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
- Al Hilana Modern Hospital (09)990990
- IRBID:
- Princess Basma Hospital 636381
- Greek Catholic Hospital 632200
- Ibn Al Nafes Hospital (02)27275
- (02)27275
- (02)27275
- (02)27275

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA AIRPORT

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

08:00 Damascus (RJ)

08:15 Sanaa (RJ)

10:15 Abu Dhabi, Al Ain (RJ)

10:20 Beirut (RJ)

10:35 Muscat, Dubai (RJ)

10:50 Doha, Bahrain (RJ)

14:05 New York (RJ)

17:30 Cairo (RJ)

17:40 Frankfurt (RJ)

18:25 Chicago, Amsterdam (RJ)

Other Flights

05:40 London (BA)

09:15 Cairo (MS)

13:40 Abu Dhabi (GF)

14:00 Riyadh (SV)

14:00 Munich (YP)

16:00 Rome (AZ)

16:30 Dubai (EK)

19:35 Amsterdam (KL)

20:20 London (BA)

20:20 Aden (TY)

21:10 Beirut (ME)

22:00 Tel Aviv (LY)

00:55 Bucharest (RO)

03:00 Kuwait (KL)

Royal Wings (RW) Flights

09:50 Aqaba (RW)

19:45 Tel Aviv (RW)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

06:35 Beirut (RJ)

09:30 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)

12:10 Vienna, Frankfurt (RJ)

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in Jds per kg.

Apricot 850/500

Apple 700/500

Banana 600/600

Banana (mukhammar) 520/520

Banana (imported) 830/600

Cabbage 210/40

Carrot 130/80

Cauliflower 240/160

Cucumber (large) 140/80

Cucumber (small) 240/140

Eggplant 200/120

Garlic 650/400

Lemon 680/450

Marrow (large) 200/120

Marrow (small) 330/200

Mulukhiyah 150/100

Onion (dry) 130/80

Okra 750/500

Orange 400/300

Plum 330/200

Pea 380/250

Peach 670/400

Pepper (hot) 340/220

Pepper (sweet) 320/220

Potato 270/180

String Bean 450/250

Sweet melon 190/140

Tomato 110/70

Water melon 110/70

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King Crown Prince Hassan, 41, in the area. (On the Crown Prince's visit)

Regent urges towards integ

AMMAN, Jordan — HRH Crown Prince Hassan, 41, urged Sunday towards integrated development in the north-western regions of the kingdom and urged residents to cooperate more in farming and food production.

The Crown Prince said that planning is necessary in developing integrated programmes that would be implemented in the north-western regions of the kingdom, including Ajlun, Irbid, Jerash and Ajlun.

He said the importance of comprehensive development in the region was "very

Israel

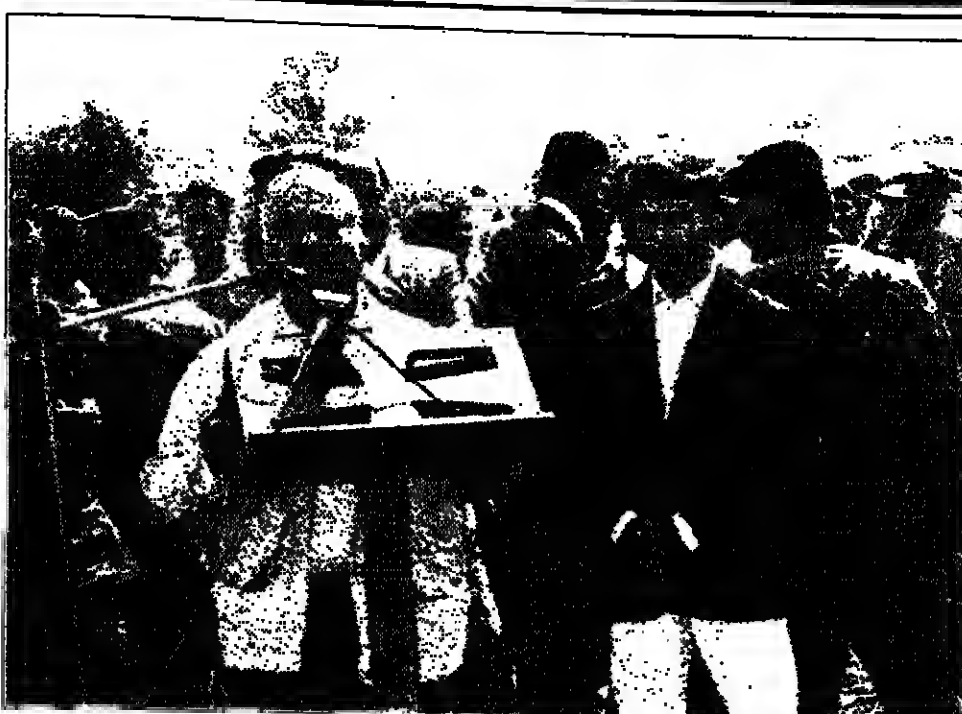
(Continued from page 1)

...of the previous year government of Shimon Peres.

"It is very important to go back to the negotiations as soon as possible and not waste time," International Cooperation Minister Nabil Shaab told AFP.

"We will ask the Israeli government to implement the agreement, mainly employing immediately releasing prisoners" and ensure the Israeli withdrawal from the West Bank, he added.

The redeployment from Hebron, already four months behind schedule, is seen as a key test of new Israeli Prime Minister



HRH Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday visits Ajloun and speaks to residents of the area. On the Crown Prince's left is HRH Prince Rashid Ben Al Hassan (Petra photo)

Regent urges northern communities towards integrated land development

AJLOUN (Petra) — HRH Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Sunday toured northern regions of the Kingdom and urged residents to concentrate more on farming and food production.

Prince Hassan said careful planning is necessary in developing integrated programmes that would be advantageous to the northern regions which includes the governorates of Irbid, Mafrqa, Jerash and Ajloun.

Stressing the importance of comprehensive development, the Regent said "we

bave to direct our efforts towards the future and we should copy other countries' examples in planning development schemes to the year 2020."

He cited the mountainous regions of Ajloun and the surrounding plains as prime areas for development.

Praising teams of employees of the Ministry of Agriculture for their efforts to help develop the northern regions, the Regent said these staff members helped to encourage residents of these communities towards sustain-

able land use.

The Regent announced that in September Jordan will organise a scientific week dedicated to land use, methods and applications. He said the meeting will discuss issues pertaining to soil, land surveys, areas of agricultural land and other relevant questions.

During Sunday's tour, the Regent met student groups involved in the Al Hussein Summer Camps in the Ajloun district and was briefed on their activities.

Middle Eastern, African panel start work on socio-economic, population issues

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A meeting of African and Middle Eastern parliamentarians concerning socio-economic and population issues plugging their nations Monday opened with a call from House Speaker Saad Hayel Smur for combined efforts to help resolve these problems.

The steering committee, created by deputies from Africa and the Middle East at a meeting in Cairo in 1994, is concerned with resolving population and development problems.

The head of the Jordanian delegation to the meeting, Deputy Samir Habashneh, told the session that Jordan's high fertility rate is an urgent problem.

He said lack of family planning is resulting in imbalances between the population and natural resources and thus require immediate attention.

Mr. Habashneh told the Jordan Times that the steering committee is expected to take a decision on the final draft of its constitution which will be declared at an evening press conference today.

He added that on the national level, Jordan is taking steps towards establishing a national committee that would look into population and development problems in the country, and would work in conjunction with the multi-national steering committee.

The major aims of the



House Speaker Saad Hayel Smur and Deputy Samir Habashneh welcome participants to the first Middle Eastern-African parliamentary meeting on socio-economic development (Petra photo)

parliamentary committee, Mr. Habashneh said, are the promotion of Arab and African parliamentary activities in socio-economic fields and the expansion of regional parliamentary cooperation.

House Speaker Smur, on the other hand, drew a comparison between African and Arab countries citing how both regions face com-

mon problems regarding development, population, social and economic questions, high fertility rates and other difficulties that tend to aggravate the problems of poverty and unemployment and reduce the quality of services.

"Jordan has taken the initiative on working towards a comprehensive Middle East peace which can create

the atmosphere for its people to assume the task of socio-economic integration and progress and create regional markets that in turn would help end backwardness, poverty, illiteracy and unemployment," Mr. Smur said.

He said Jordan's parliament plays a pivotal role in promoting democracy and public freedoms without

which, he stressed, progress in various fields cannot be achieved.

The Speaker said Jordan's Parliament seeks closer cooperation with parliaments in the region in order to resolve common developmental problems.

The committee consists of delegates from 12 Arab and African countries including Jordan.

Israel lifts blockade

(Continued from page 1)

leadership, of the previous Israeli government of Shimon Peres.

"It is very important to go back to the negotiations as soon as possible and not waste time," International Cooperation Minister Nabil Shaath told AFP.

"We will ask the Israeli government to implement the agreement, mainly redeploying immediately from Hebron, continue releasing prisoners" and continue the Israeli withdrawal on the West Bank, he added.

The redeployment from Hebron, already four months behind schedule, is seen as a key test of new Israeli Prime Minister

Benjamin Netanyahu's commitment to peace.

Under the September 1995 accord signed between the PLO and the previous Labour-led Israeli government four-fifths of the town, where 400 settlers live among 120,000 Palestinians, are to be handed back to Palestinian control.

Mr. Arafat will also insist on an end to continued Jewish settlement in the West Bank and the right of Palestinian institutions to exist in Jerusalem, Dr. Shaath said.

"What we want is that at this stage no procedures are taken that might jeopardise our rights. We want to make sure that everything we have agreed in previous negotiations is not violated," Dr. Shaath added.

"Peace and settlements cannot exist side-by-side and it looks like Israel wants to turn peace into a one-side status quo which means damaging the principles of the peace process."

The last stages of the Israeli-Palestinian negotiations are due to determine the final status of the territories, the fate of the settlements and the right of return of Palestinian refugees.

But Mr. Arafat has been alarmed by Mr. Netanyahu's refusal to consider the creation of a Palestinian state or to discuss the division of Jerusalem, the eastern sector of which has been annexed by Israel but is claimed by the Palestinians as a capital.

Israel thanks Iran

(Continued from page 1)

The coffins were taken to a Beirut suburb, where they were laid in a mosque in preparation for a mass burial Tuesday.

Many of the prisoners freed Sunday and Monday pledged to rejoin guerrilla ranks and fight against Israel.

"We'll fight against Israel once, twice and three times until its occupation of South Lebanon is eliminated," Ali Saad, 30, told the Associated Press after his release.

Meanwhile, former Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres admitted for the first time that the Jewish state had had indirect con-

tacts with its arch-enemy Iran.

"We had indirect contacts with Iran via Germany," he told Israel Radio referring to the unprecedented prisoner and body swap carried out Sunday.

But Mr. Peres warned "it is difficult to negotiate with Iran, because in this country there are two sources of power which each bold budgets, and their own armed forces. The prime ministers' government on one hand and the religious authorities on the other."

He also said that Europe's policy of maintaining trade ties with Iran has failed to moderate the regime in Tehran.

More bodies found

(Continued from page 1)

has been frustrated because investigators are not hearing any telltale "pings" that are emitted from the devices, which record cockpit conversations and vital flight data. That could mean they are buried or covered by debris.

Mr. Francis said Monday that the search for the signal from the boxes was being temporarily suspended so workers could focus on retrieving the fuselage. The equipment used to look for the main piece of wreckage interferes with the electronics of the device needed to locate the signal from the boxes.



Hani Oweiss

Hani Oweiss laid to rest

AMMAN (J.T.) — Hani Oweiss, Secretary General of the Ministry of Health, was laid to rest in Amman Monday.

Dr. Oweiss, who battled a serious illness for the last four months was 55.

He had served in several Ministry of Health positions before his appointment as secretary general. During his absence, Dr. Hashem Jaddou' of the Jordan University of Science and Technology was assigned to take over his responsibilities.

Dr. Oweiss is survived by his wife and five children.

RJ chief says Arab airlines need to upgrade human resources AACO training meeting takes look at competition

AMMAN (Petra) — Royal Jordanian (RJ) President Nader Dahabi Monday opened a two-day meeting of the Arab Air Carriers Organisation (AACO) Training and Development Committee by stressing the importance of developing human resources of the Arab airlines in order to help them cope with strong competition in the commercial airline industry.

Mr. Dahabi said competition from foreign airlines and airline alliances make it imperative that optimum efficiency be guaranteed in order for Arab airlines to meet ever increasing demands from passengers and other clients.

According to Mr. Dahabi, the opening of a training centre in Amman for employees of 18 Arab airlines, including RJ, as well as the recent opening in Amman of a regional office of the

International Air Transport Association (IATA) demonstrates that Jordan is increasingly looked upon by the international community as a country which can boast stability and security.

The planned training centre will be financed by the European Union (EU).

Mr. Dahabi pledged RJ's complete assistance in facilitating the activities and services of AACO and other Arab airlines, and would make available its own facilities to train Arab airline employees.

The AACO tomorrow is expected to sign an agreement with the EU to establish the permanent training centre in Amman, at an estimated cost of \$750,000.

Meanwhile training is to start at a temporary location by October.

Road accidents claim 7 lives

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A man and his two children Monday were killed and two pedestrians were injured when a water tanker over-jumped an island on a road in Madaba yesterday.

The father, Suleiman Musa Marei (38) and his children Hamzeh (6) and Sawwan (14) were riding on top of the tanker with another child (also a daughter of Mr. Marei).

The third child suffered only minor injuries.

The truck driver, Sadiq Hassan Mohammad (62), a Sudanese, carried no driving licence, and his vehicle bore no licence plates, according to Madaba police. He escaped with no injuries, the police said.

According to a Civil Defence Department (CDD) official, the driver of the truck lost control of his vehicle.

The truck rolled over

killing Marei and two of his children, the official told the Jordan Times.

Police said the injured are being treated at Madaba hospital.

The injured are reported to be in stable condition.

Four other people were killed Sunday morning in a road accident that involved a rental car and a truck near Swaga prison on the Desert Highway.

A CDD spokesman said the dead were three Jordanians: two brothers, Jamil (32) and Hamed (36) Attallah Laimoun and their cousin, Ali Abdullah Laimoun (26), and a Saudi citizen, Hazem Ali Shabrami (32); all four victims were riding in the rented car.

The CDD spokesman said the driver of the rental car was speeding in the direction of Amman.

He said the driver lost control of the vehicle, overshot the dividing island and collided with an oncoming truck.

WHAT'S GOING ON

JERASH FESTIVAL

- Concert by the New Generation Club for Circassian Folklore at the South Theatre at 8:30 p.m.
- Performance of Syrian Folklore by the Heritage Band of Halab at Artimes Theatre at 8:30 p.m.
- Performance by the Jordanian Armed Forces Musical Band, the Nile Band of Popular Art, Al Hannounah Band, the Aqaba Youth Centre, the Shobak Youth Centre, and Sharaf Band at the Main Theatre at 6:30 p.m.
- Children's play "Once Upon A Time" (Arabic) at Gracia Theatre at 7:30 p.m.
- Poetry recital by Samih Al Qasim, Ali Al Fazzam' and Ghai Al Dhibah at Darat Al Fannun, Jabal Weibdeh (6:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.).

POETRY RECITAL

- Poetry recital by Murid Al Barghouti at Abdul

EXHIBITIONS

- "Muslims in Britain" exhibition at the British Council until July 24.
- Exhibition of works by Sudanese artist Rashid Diab entitled "The Time of Silence" at Darat Al Fannun, Jabal Weibdeh. Also displaying works by contemporary Arab artists, until July 31.
- Ceramics exhibition at Jordan Design and Trade Centre, off Wadi Saqra Street (Tel. 6991412), until July 25.

FILM

- Jordanian film "An Eastern Tale" at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman at 7:30 p.m.

Alle Deutschen

mit ständigem Wohnsitz in Jordanien sind zu einem Empfang in der Deutschen Residenz anlässlich des offiziellen Jordanien-Besuchs von Frau Bundestagspräsidentin Professor Dr. Rita Süßmuth am

Donnerstag, 25. Juli 1996, von 20.00 bis 22.00 Uhr herzlich eingeladen.

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Established 1975

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Where water flows ...

JORDANIANS ARE discovering everyday that they have been doing the wrong thing for the wrong reason for a long time.

After the shock brought about by the much belated government decision to lift subsidy on bread prices, the people are increasingly becoming aware of another impending crisis, water. Unlike bread, however, water cannot, so far, be imported.

The government announced earlier this week that it was facing a water deficit for domestic use of 25 per cent. Translated into figures that deficit stands at 55 million cubic metres (mcm).

What is so bizarre about this revelation is that water for domestic use, i.e. consumption at home, is only about one-fourth of water used for agriculture, which stands at 730 mcm. The absurd fact here is that agriculture contributes only less than seven per cent of our gross domestic product (GDP) and employs just about seven per cent of the workforce, mostly guest workers.

There is a myth that many Jordanians believe, and some even propagate, particularly newspaper writers and columnists; it is that Jordan could be self-sufficient in food production. The persistent columns on this issue, coupled with a strong farmers' lobby, keep the myth alive. This of course is not true. The Jordanian soil, to start with, is not as fertile as Europe's or that in many parts of Asia.

Rainfall is very low; it is at an average of about 300 millimetres a year. And surface water resources are becoming scarcer every year: the water table is reducing at the rate of one metre per annum.

The government, aware of all these facts, recently raised the price of water for consumers. The price for irrigation was pushed up from six fils per cubic metre to 15. Rates of water for domestic consumption were also increased, although the cost for the first category remained only a tiny fraction of the second.

The prime minister on Sunday decided to form a national committee to discuss problems in the agricultural sector. According to one member, Minister of Agriculture Mustafa Shneikat, the committee would discuss "all matters related to agriculture" but especially "difficulties that impede marketing (produce) locally and abroad." Considering that Dr. Shneikat is a strong proponent of a strengthened agricultural sector, his words mean that more emphasis will be put on the importance of agriculture, which in turn means more allocation of water resources to this sector.

This can be hardly the right step to take. Since even Israel, which has more water and technological resources at its disposal is not gaining much from its advanced agricultural sector, we think that Jordan should rethink its approach in a more scientific and objective manner. The whole issue should be debated at an experts' level conference that could answer the critical questions that do have to be asked.

The question is not about agriculture, it is about water resources, their availability, renewability, quality and certainly the cost involved in tapping them.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al Dustour said much of the promised economic development which the governments of Jordan had promised to achieve never happened. Since the peace treaty with Israel was signed, Jordanians have seen deteriorating economy, more taxes, end of subsidy on bread and continued rise in prices of various commodities, including the basic foodstuffs, said Taher Adwan. Had we received the promised grants and soft loans from the donor nations, like Europe and Japan, we would have been living in paradise, but regrettably many of the promises and pledges were not honoured and the situation is worsening, he said.

THE ARRIVAL in the Middle East of the French Foreign Minister Hervé de Charette signals a new effort on the part of the French government to give momentum to the peace process, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Monday. The French minister's tour is part of the diplomatic offensive which was started by Jordan to put the peace process once again back on track after the stalemate that has paralysed the negotiations between Israel and the Arab countries, said the paper. His arrival in Amman coincides with a new shuttle diplomacy in the region by the U.S. Middle East envoy Denis Ross who is also planning to discuss the resumption of negotiations and break the deadlock, according to the daily. Indeed, it said, the American and the French initiatives complement one another and together they complement Jordan's endeavours and Egypt's moves at the regional level to help establish a comprehensive peace.

The View from Fourth Circle

By Rami G. Khouri

The price of bread, the currency of modernism and the cost of progress

The prolonged controversy about the government's decision to raise the price of bread and to redirect its subsidies to the neediest Jordanians has only something to do with bread prices, but much more to do with Jordanian politics today.

The government must be given very high marks for its political courage to face up to the economic realities and to take the hard decisions required to put our country on a track of sustainable economic growth; its track record on economic reform is impressive indeed. But, the government should be given very low marks for the party amateurish, partly autocratic manner in which it handled the political aspects of the bread price issue.

The decision to reduce the government's wheat and bread subsidy was correct, and we should commend the government for: a) continuing to reduce the government deficit by lowering the public fiscal burden and b) equally important though partly hidden amidst the controversy, for injecting a rather impressive social component into public economic policy making in the decision to target cash grants to the poorest and lowest income Jordanians. If this long overdue social targeting of government support marks the start of a coherent public policy of addressing the needs of the poor while reducing the capacity of wealthy Jordanians to benefit from government largesse, it should be recognised and applauded as a huge achievement of the Kabarti government.

The government bordered on incompetence, however, in its political handling of the issue. The subsidies decision clearly was going to generate a strong reaction from the public, given a) the general state of economic unease and vulnerability that defines many Jordanians, b) widespread popular irritation with the feeling that the lives and fate of ordinary people are being determined by heartless International Monetary Fund (IMF) bureaucrats and their equally ice-hearted political allies in foreign capitals, c) broad disappointment with the lack of visible economic gains from the peace treaty with Israel, and, d) the high expectations inherent in the Kabarti government's pledges of promoting new-style public conduct and decision-making.

Thus the bread prices decision generated strong protests and also raised questions about many other aspects of the government's performance, which the government handled so clumsily that it had to be bailed out by the personal intervention and support of His Majesty King Hussein. We should not merely document these events, but also explore them for their causes and future implications. The government, especially, should reach deep into its youthful soul and analyse what it did right and what it did wrong, so that politically it conducts itself more effectively the next time we face a similar situation of price increases (which, government promises to the contrary, is probably inevitable if you look at the relatively low prices of our

water, transport and other basics).

It seems to me that the government has made the same mistake on this issue that previous governments made on the peace treaty with Israel. It assumed — naively, innocently but probably wrongly — that consultations with elected parliamentarians provided a degree of political interaction with the people of Jordan sufficient to satisfy both the state's profession of democratic rule and the people's visceral, almost biological obsession to be treated with respect and dignity by those who make decisions in their name. Parliament is an important player in the democratic arena, but it is only one of many other players that need to be engaged for the political spectacle to achieve its full beauty and bounty.

The government's tendency to decide without sufficient input from all political actors and a representative cross-section of ordinary citizens is a structural problem of political culture that will require gradual adjustment, just as our economic distortions require long-term structural adjustment. Jordanian governments have exercised virtually absolute power for so many decades that they do not know how to, or do not feel the need to, engage the people in a deep, genuine dialogue of equals, for governments have neither been trained in such a process nor subjected to its political imperatives.

The double irony and disappointment in this instance is that the Kabarti government assumed power precisely on the promise of promoting a new, more open manner of political decision-making — one that consulted more people, engaged in give-and-take, allowed for more expression of people's sentiments, and placed a greater value on credibility, accountability, transparency, and corruption-hunting. This government entered office dressed in the beautiful promise of modern governance values whose assertion would mark a historic transition from the old ways to the new, from history to modernity — from dependency as a defining Jordanian political attribute to self-assertion and innovative, productive self-reliance as the hallmark of a younger, more audacious, more daring and more deliberative Jordan.

The fact remains, I claim, that the vast majority of Jordanians appreciate and accept the need to raise prices if this is the only means of reducing public budget deficits; what it objects to is being forced to do so by government fiat without sufficient attention being paid to the people's sense that their needs and concerns are being taken into consideration. I am certain that a more rigorous national political and economic consensus could have been reached had the government said directly to parliament and the various extra-parliamentary opposition groups: "We have a major, indeed, historical fiscal problem; we must reduce government subsidies on bread and other goods and services by several hundred million dinars, otherwise the state's deficit will increase, foreign exchange reserves will

drop again, confidence in the dinar will erode, and real living standards will drop precipitously for all Jordanians. We would like your suggestions on how this can be avoided and how budget cuts can be achieved in a manner that is socially, politically and economically acceptable to the majority of Jordanians."

I am sure that more serious consultations, before making the decision to shift bread subsidies, would have achieved the government's fiscal goals, while also achieving its political goal of implementing a "white revolution". The government's approach was flawed because: a) it focused too much energy on parliament (which is a, but not necessarily the, leading expression of democratic opposition in the realm) and b) it did not sufficiently engage the population as a whole in an exercise in democratic dialogue, neither in explaining the reasons for the needed subsidy changes nor in discussing with Jordanians possible other options for making the necessary fiscal adjustments.

The government also acted or appeared heavy-handed when it took measures to hinder the peaceful protests/sit-in by opposition groups in front of Parliament on Sunday. The people who asked for permission to protest represent the heart of the loyal opposition to the government. If these people are not granted permission to express their political sentiments in a peaceful, rational manner in the warm sun of a July Sunday morning in front of the highest expression of our institutional political democracy — the house of parliament — then can we blame those Jordanians who now tend to be more sceptical about both the economic benefits of peace with Israel and the depth and credibility of our political democratisation?

This issue is rather simple, I believe: people are just as concerned about how their government treats them as they are about what their government does. There is no doubt that this government, with so many parliamentarians amidst its ministerial ranks, will always secure a parliamentary majority for whatever political or economic decisions it makes.

Therefore, it has to make the extra effort to engage the Jordanian people in democratic, white revolutionary encounters in a more creative, profound and credible manner than it has done to date. I say this as a supporter and admirer of the Kabarti government and a believer in its promise of enlightened, modern governance, though I suspect that the government is still learning about the currency in which the transactions of modernism are denominated; and I say this also as a critic of a Kabarti government that, in this instance, momentarily slipped back into the beguiling but dark alleyways of the past, where it appears slightly uncomfortable, and where it has momentarily — and I believe only momentarily — lost sight of the need for governments and people simultaneously to change their ways, in order to absorb the costs of change and then to reap the benefits of genuine progress.

All that glitters isn't... Gold

By Uri Avnery

ALL THAT glitters isn't gold — not even Netanyahu wonder boy Dore Gold.

Many years back I remember discussing the subject of Israeli experts on Arab affairs with Boutros Ghali. Sadat had just visited Jerusalem, and Dr. Ghali was serving in the Egyptian foreign ministry. The future U.N. secretary-general was already known for his brilliance.

"You Israelis have the best Arabists in the world," he said with a smile. "They have read every book and article on the Arab World. But they don't understand a thing. Why? Because they have never lived in an Arab state or come into contact with the Arab public."

I recalled this conversation recently in connection with Gold.

Those in the prime minister's inner circle speak of Gold with nothing but the highest praise. In their eyes he is a brilliant expert, a true Jewish-American intellectual, the guy with all the answers.

After Gold met with Arafat I asked the Palestinians about their impressions of Wonder Boy. They just shrugged: "Another one who doesn't understand a thing."

Sending Gold to meet with the head of the Palestinian Authority was an empty gesture on Netanyahu's part.

The Americans had demanded that Netanyahu meet with Yasser Arafat. He didn't want to, either from personal conviction or out of fear of the extreme right-wingers who are becoming entrenched in his government. So he sent Gold in his stead.

That way, despite the total freeze in the peace process, Netanyahu could travel to the U.S. and sell his boasts a lot of bunk about the continuation of

the process. All is well; contact has been maintained. Gold has met with Arafat. Clinton, of course, was bappy enough. He has elections coming up in four months and until then he has no desire to quarrel with Israel's government. The last thing he needs is to alienate Jewish American voters.

"These yes-men, in and out of uniform, are supposed to be the ones who will advance the peace process. Instead they will reinforce the negative attitude of our new premier, a man who knows nothing about Palestinians and has surrounded himself with people who apparently don't know much more."

But the problem goes beyond the prime minister's tendency to play "let's pretend" with the Palestinian Authority. Benjamin Netanyahu has little understanding of the Arab World in general, and of the Palestinian people in particular. His books testify to this. They are crammed full of "facts" which evoke a smile from anyone with even a rudimentary knowledge of Arab reality.

It's no wonder, Netanyahu has almost never talked to real Arabs — except for formal talks with Arab heads of state and the much-publicised stormy meeting with Arab journalists in Madrid. Everything Bibi knows about Arabs is a collection of slogans, some inherited from his father, some he himself has come up with.

One could argue that a politician doesn't have to know everything. It's enough if he knows how to win an election — and Netanyahu's very good at that.

But if the prime minister knows nothing about an issue vital to national security, for example, it becomes important who his advisers are. And that's where Gold comes in.

I don't know, and I don't care, where Netanyahu found this "expert." What is important is that Gold is dangerous for two reasons: first, because he has no genuine understanding of the Palestinian reality — at least according to the Palestinians themselves — and second, because both he and Netanyahu think he understands it.

As premier Netanyahu wields enormous power, he will discover what leaders throughout history have learned: that advisers tell you what you want to hear, and they will furnish you with opinions that mesh with your own.

We've already seen this process in action. Officials involved in Palestinian relations prepared the paper-work for the new prime minister in advance of his U.S. visit.

They made sure to write precisely what Netanyahu wanted to hear — for example, on the subject of alleged Palestinian violations of the Oslo accords.

These yes-men, in and out of uniform, are supposed to be the ones who will advance the peace process. Instead they will reinforce

the negative attitude of our new premier, a man who knows nothing about Palestinians and has surrounded himself with people who apparently don't know much more.

Understanding is clearly no substitute for political will. No amount of information will help Netanyahu make peace if he isn't interested in peacemaking.

But it would at least help him to know what he's talking about.

The writer heads Israel's Peace Bloc. The article is reprinted from the Jerusalem Post.

LETTERS

Revising eating habits

To the Editor:

BREAD HAS for centuries been regarded as a symbol of life.

From an economy point of view, bread is no more than an ordinary commodity whose rise in price is similar to a rise in the price of any other commodity such as tomatoes, oil, sugar and gasoline.

Hence, while in principle foodstuffs get their priorities in the consumption pattern of the consumers, nobody would argue that their price is anything but what the fair market conditions reflect.

In its endeavour to abide by the economic reform policy and to cope with the requirements of a safe economy, the government was to confront and choose one among some bitter alternatives: all of them are very harmful and detrimental, except for the choice to lift a subsidy granted to fix bread selling prices, which is the least. Therefore, it should be sincerely understood that by so reluctantly biting the bullet, the government will avoid a dilemma that could affect the country, while comprehending the dimensions of the endurance the people will have to undergo.

One more thing worth saying is that a serious review of our menu should take place. Our cuisine concentrates on carbohydrates and fats; therefore, by following better eating habits we will be able to lead a healthier life.

Again, why should we always be pessimistic and not count our blessings, such as the social peace and cohesion, prevailing security, and overcome the need to endure with patience for the sake of preparing a better life for our children and the generations yet to come.

Let us always remember the saying: Man does not live by bread alone.

Maher A. Waked,
Amman.

Stop polluting

To the Editor:

THE LAW of nature guides human conduct in connection with his surroundings.

Economic development is one important element that greatly affects the environment.

Governments tend to combat and control pollution through their judicial system.

Pollution is caused by human beings and its extent and consequences are caused by the following four factors: high population densities, increase in consumption as a result of an increase in incomes, emission of pollutants in the course of production and legal and economic systems that have failed to prevent or discourage the free method of waste disposal.

Sulphur dioxide and nitrogen in the atmosphere contributed to acid rain which destroys forests, plantations, lakes and rivers.

Population density in big cities is responsible for contaminated air and water, traffic congestion and noise pollution. In this case, zoning ordinances, which restrict the use of land, represent effective remedies.

Over the years, the citizens of Fubeis have been complaining about and alleging continuous damage from dust, smoke and vibration emanating from the Jordan Cement Factories.

The Jordan Cement Factories in Fubeis is charged with trespass and nuisance. Trespass may occur if one causes particles to enter the airspace above another person's land. Nuisance has been defined as an act that annoys or disturbs the enjoyment of a land-owner's property. Therefore, the factory should be prohibited from further polluting the air and causing distress to the inhabitants of that city.

George N. Saig,
Amman.

By Lois Rogers

ALLA COLLIER has tried almost everything the slimming industry can offer. She embarked on her first diet as a chubby 14-year-old. As her weight crept relentlessly upwards, she went on light diets, fruit diets and fibre diets. She perspired. She swam. She performed exercises in front of her video and panted her way through countless aerobics classes, all in vain. When, at 5 feet 3 inches, she hit 15 stone, Collier, from Newark, Nottingham, decided to forgo the low-calorie "diet-replacement" drinks. To her astonishment and to her loss three stone, she lost three stone. But when she stopped the diet, she put on more weight than ever. By the age of 20 she was nearly 15 stone.

Today, little more than a year later, she has halved in weight after a course of week-long classes at Slimming World, one of Britain's biggest dieting clubs, which taught her to control her eating. She predicts a lifelong battle to maintain a healthy weight but at least knows now that it is possible to starve herself.

"The effect of that is that you just eat more when you go to yourself go," she said. "The key is to understand what foods you can eat and still be healthy."

The slimming industry's appeal to Collier and the 50 per cent of people said to be overweight in the United Kingdom is such that we spend more than £1 billion a year on everything from slimming pills to insubstantial breads, from exercise bikes to low-calorie chocolates for fatties who cannot live without them.

This appeal is about to be enhanced by the results of a commercial race to be first with revolutionary advances in science that promise to succeed where so many have failed.

At the European Congress on Obesity, a recent international conference to consider such developments, Professor Michael Liza from Glasgow University, extolled the virtues of a new drug called sibutramine.

Gle

By Neil Winton
Reuter

LONDON — A scientific argument is blazing over a U.N. agency's view that global warming is probably caused by people.

Some scientists say flawed data and politics have tainted the case. Arguments over the quality of the science behind the U.N.'s Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) have led to normally calm scientists heatedly hurling epithets such as "disingenuous", "nonsense" and "distortion" at each other.

On July 19, the IPCC winds up its latest deliberations on climate change — dominated by its contentious assertion that human activity plays a key role in global warming — at the end of a two-week meeting in Geneva attended by government officials and scientists.

They will report on the progress made by industrialised countries towards meeting the goal set by the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio that emissions of greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide should be reduced to 1990 levels by 2000.

Both sides of the global temperature argument, running for months since the IPCC laid the blame at mankind's door

Sudan issues new regulations on hard currency

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Birthstone of July: Ruby — Tiger's Eye.

Egypt, Israel consortium sign oil refinery deal

CAIRO (R) — An Egyptian-Israeli consortium Sunday signed a series of contracts to build a \$1.2 billion oil refinery in Alexandria, Egypt.

The contracts were awarded to a European consortium, a Japanese company and four U.S. companies, the Middle East Oil Refinery (MIDOR) consortium told reporters in Cairo.

Technipetrol of Italy and Technip of France will build the refinery. The U.S. companies UOP, Conoco and Bechtel will supply state-of-the-art technology and Louisiana Carbon will participate in product off-takes, MIDOR added in a statement.

MIDOR is a joint venture between Israel's Merhav Group, the Hussein K. Salem Group of Egypt and the Egyptian General Petroleum Corp. (EGPC).

"We started three-and-a-half years ago on this project. At first, we explored several other projects ranging from gold mines to petrochemicals until we decided on the oil refinery," said Hussein Salem, chairman of the Salem Group.

"We (Egypt and Israel) were enemies of the past and now we are friends of today," he added, referring to the peace deal signed between the two countries in 1979.

The signing ceremony was followed by a lavish champagne reception and lunch at a five-star Cairo hotel which key Egyptian and Israeli officials attended.

Officials at MIDOR said a ground-breaking ceremony is expected to take place in October and that the final steps in project development, including financing as well as selection of other construction groups, will be concluded soon.

They said the European Investment Bank had extended long-term credit of \$300 million to the project. They also said that several export credit agencies have expressed an interest in providing credit for the project.

One official added that

Foreign interest grows in Egyptian shares

CAIRO (R) — Foreign investors more than tripled their share of business on the Egyptian stock exchange in the first half of 1996 as international interest in the market took off, a senior financial official has said.

Ashraf Shams Al Din, deputy chairman of Egypt's Capital Markets Authority (CMA), said international investors accounted for 20 per cent of the 3.3 billion pounds (\$970 million) of stock traded on the Cairo bourse in the first six months of the year.

That compared with just six per cent of the 3.8 billion pounds traded in the

whole of last year.

"The domestic investment base has increased sharply, but on top of all that the foreign investment has risen even faster," Mr. Shams Al Din told Reuters.

He said international investors were drawn by Egypt's relative economic openness compared to other Arab stock markets, the Egyptian government's renewed commitment to economic reform and by high-profile conferences in New York and London promoting investment opportunities in the country.

"I don't think any of the existing markets in the region allow for free such

accessibility to share ownership as in Egypt," Mr. Shams Al Din said.

He said most of the foreign players were international investors from the United States, Britain, Singapore and from other Arab countries.

Brokers say that foreign buying has been partly behind a two-week surge in the Egyptian share prices.

They said a flurry of sales of state companies and the proposed listing of Egypt's largest private sector bank on the London exchange had also put the exchange in the international spotlight.

Price war takes toll of PC market

PARIS (AFP) — Alarm signals last week from Digital and Escom, two major names in personal computers (PCs), revealed starkly how much the once-lucrative PC market has been plunged into crisis by an escalating price war.

Escom A.G., which shot to second place on the German PC market in less than 10 years, shocked the business world last week by announcing it was going into receivership.

The American company Digital ended two years of spectacular development by announcing a ruthless restructuring programme with loss of 7,000 jobs, or more than 10 per cent of its workforce.

The difficulties of the German company, which will go bankrupt if it cannot find a buyer, was caused by what was seen as a risky business policy and a stock backlog due to an unexpectedly slow market growth in the European PC market in recent months.

Robert Palmer, Digital's

chief executive, made no bones about who was to blame for the company's recent performance: The microprocessing division.

"The performance of our personal computers activity is unacceptable," he said.

But many observers believe the chief culprit is the price war in the PC market. The French consultant Francois Klipfel said: "It has disoriented everybody. Companies have deferred their purchases, anticipating that prices would fall further."

Several top-of-the-range computers now find themselves selling at the same price as bottom-of-the-range versions of eight months earlier.

It seems Digital will not quit the PC market, as did the French company Bull when it handed over its subsidiary Zenith Data Systems (ZDS) to its U.S. partner Packard-Bell in April, or the British company ICL, whose PC division has now been completely taken over by the parent company, Fujitsu.

Like ZDS, Digital did not manage to get into the world's top ten, which includes the market leader Compaq, along with names like Hewlett-Packard, IBM and Bell. The American maker Apple is in trouble similar to that of the PC makers, according to the Wall Street Journal.

The newspaper last week reported a 30 to 50 per cent drop in sales of Apple's Macintosh computers during the April-May period compared to a year ago.

Without confirming these figures, the group has admitted that it did not anticipate profits in the short-term.

Despite the current crisis, which could lead to various brand names disappearing or being merged, the specialist Francois Klipfel remains optimistic about the future of microprocessing. He said it would "remain a growing market, much better oriented than most other economic sectors."

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET									
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - JORDAN									
22/07/1996									
STOCK	12 MONTHS LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	P/R	DIV.	NO. OF SHARES	VALUE	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE
250,000	205,000	ARAB BANK	12.0	1.50	330	70315	220.00	220.00	-
3,900	3,000	BANK OF JORDAN	10.9	0.00	3	212	3.17	3.01	-0.16
2,340	1,880	MID. EAST INV. BK.	08.7	0.00	10	6000	5909	.99	1.00
2,700	2,120	INDUSTRIAL DEV. BK.	8.0	0.00	3	480	907	2.22	2.19
0.100	0.250	THE HOUSING BK.	12.8	3.88	4	5000	8390	4.00	4.79
3,040	2,600	JOR. KOWATZ BANK	19.0	0.00	12	2523	0944	3.71	2.71
1,160	900	JOR. OIL & GAS	7.7	7.27	9	21400	20320	.96	.98
4,180	3,300	JOR. ISLAMIC BANK	17.4	0.00	15	3519	12713	3.66	3.62
4,350	1,700	UNION BK. DEV. INV.	9	0.00	6	381	315	1.70	1.60
1,120	300	AMMAN BANK INV.	9	0.00	20	22550	7472	.34	.33
1,720	1,600	PHILADEL. INV. BK.	9	0.00	4	1150	2330	1.37	1.15
BANK SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 173.94 %CHG: -0.34									
4,410	4,000	JERUSALEM INSUR.	11.4	4.76	1	300	840	4.25	4.20
INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 123.10 %CHG: -0.12									
1,900	1,450	JOR. ELECTRICITY PWR.	10.5	7.09	20	8610	13088	1.53	1.52
2,800	2,050	SHIPPING LINE	22.0	9.22	3	950	3663	2.17	2.17
1,160	900	REAL ESTATE INV.	19.7	3.22	1	300	1241	3.46	3.43
3,460	1,790	MID. EAST HOTELS	79.7	0.00	1	1000	1850	1.87	1.85
1,430	960	BANK EDUCATION	9	0.00	2	2250	2354	3.02	3.00
2,430	1,700	UNIFIED CO.	9.9	5.29	11	3000	5615	2.80	1.89
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 111.73 %CHG: -0.20									
3,810	3,060	JOR. GEMST FACT.	18.0	3.37	14	3211	9904	3.11	3.15
6,960	4,750	ARAB POSTAL CO.	16.2	3.86	3	350	1768	6.05	5.05
10,560	8,750	JOR. PETROL. REFINERY	9.3	8.83	16	870	7884	9.10	9.06
8,900	1,400	ARAB PAPER CO.	19.7	3.87	6	150	1241	3.46	3.43
0.450	0.650	JOR. PETROL. REFIN.	7.2	4.31	3	280	1445	5.85	5.00
2,630	1,730	JOR. PIPES MANUF.	10.0	6.57	3	360	630	1.00	1.00
1,110	3,600	CENTRAL BANK	7.1	10.31	1	100	273	1.71	1.76
8,000	4,350	DAR ALDAMA INV. INV.	12.9	4.40	1	1100	6005	4.60	4.55
9,900	3,130	ARAB ALUM. IND.	5.2	12.23	8	1600	5273	3.37	3.27
1,410	480	LITEXCO & POLYESTER	9	0.00	94	123750	6263	.51	.50
1,210	1,060	NATIONAL BANK	10.2	8.70	15	5331	3645	.70	.69
2,310	1,060	LYSTEXCO, PETRO. CHEM.	9	0.00	4	950	1214	1.37	1.36
4,950	2,950	ARAB PAPER CO. LTD.	18.8	0.00	1	150	465	3.05	3.05
1,660	830	JOR. SULPHUR CHEM.	9	0.00	13	4350	3023	.90	.90
2,240	1,080	ARAB SHAWM CO.	10.7	0.00	7	2350	3444	1.47	1.40
7,450	1,460	UNIT. MOUL. IND.	5.0	10.75	6	6100	2245	2.30	2.30
2,170	1,210	JOR. IND. RESOURCES	26.1	0.00	22	9100	19087	1.36	1.44
1,460	950	JOR. NEW CARBON CO.	28.5	0.00	2	2450	2667	1.08	1.05
2,460	1,750	EL - DAY KERRY WEAR	9	0.00	3	7050	13080	1.30	1.30
1,400	1,090	UNEL. TOBACCO	28.0	0.00	6	950	1140	1.20	1.19
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 106.18 %CHG: -0.01									
GRAND TOTAL INDEX: 139.03 %CHG: -0.20									
PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR MONDAY 22/07/1996									
840	810	CENTRAL GEN. STORAGE	32.9	0.00	4	3350	1950	.57	.57
840	810	JOR. TRADE PCL	17.1	0.00	0	8270	6013	.65	.64
900	840	DATA COMM. SYSTEMS	2	0.00	7	11922	6657	.58	.55
1,000	700	UNION INV. SOF	67.9	0.00	14	13000	2859	.73	.71
1,100	530	ARAB INV. INVEST.	9	0.00	20	19300	1141	.60	.61
650	340	JOR. IND. INVEST. JORDO	9	0.00	7	4500	3075	.46	.45
1,000	510	ARAB FOOD & MED.	2	0.00	10	2700	1625	.62	.60
1,850	1,370	KATL. CHOCOLATE	2	0.00	2	350	514	1.47	1.40
740	520	ARAB TEXT. IND. TRD.	9	0.00	3	1350	780	.59	.57
1,100	770	KATL. MACH. IND. JORDO	2	0.00	30	31450	20757	.68	.66
1,080	770	JORDAN OTEL	2	0.00	2	2000	1650	.04	.02
1,070	490	ARAB SELECT. INDUS.	2	0.00	1	400	45	.49	.47
1,000	620	MIDWEST WEAR. 75%	2	0.00	0	2000	000	.65	.65
1,710	1,100	UNION TOBACCO 75%	2	0.00	3	2800	3393	1.19	1.17
950	640	KATL. FRANK. 65%	2	0.00	19	15911	9745	.07	.08
890	440	TRID. WED.	31.7	0.00	48	90880	26874	.07	.08
1,460	770	INDUS. CRAWLIG	2	0.00	5	4300	3440	.03	.05
850	610	L. KERVILLE HAMPS.	2	0.00	4	2460	1020	.43	.43
970	650	KATL. POLYESTER	2	0.00	3	2000	1330	.66	.64
1,500	1,090	MID. EAST COMPLEX	9.7	0.00	19	43950	35959	.79	.83
GRAND TOTAL 219 220593 133363									
+ New 12 months low									
+ Stock dividend during the past 12 months									
+ Listed during the past 12 months									
+ P/E ratio is 100 or more									
+ Negative P/E									
+ Listing is new or N/A for the most recent year									

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Major Currencies & Cross Rates									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY	CAD	ITL	NLG	FRF
US Dollar	1.4873	0.6472	1.2150	107.80	1.3853	1511.27	1.6682	5.0300	
DE Mark	0.6724	1.0000	0.6366	63.10	0.6177	1015.84	1.3717	3.3974	
GB Sterling	0.7924	1.5549	1.0000	1.6787	1.6700	2104.04	2.3341	3.5775	7.7437
CH Franc	0.7530	1.2234	0.6322	1.0000	66.60	7.2533	1243.33	137.22	4.1444
JP Yen	0.0093	1.5770	0.5989	1.1250	1.0000	1.2643	13.99	154.47	4.6648
CA Dollar	0.7324	1.0889	0.4738	0.6886	1.26	1106.51	1.2219	2.0697	
IT Lira	0.0007	0.0007	0.0007	0.0007	1402.13	0.9033		11.04	5.3327
NL Guilder	0.5984	0.812	0.3578	0.7281	0.4485	0.8181	908.80		3.0199
FR Franc	0.1985	0.2951	0.1283	0.1407	21.40	0.2709	33.10	33.1000	

Energy									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY				
Brent	19.85	20.15							
WTI	20.30	21.55							
Bony	19.85	20.15							
Dubai	17.85	17.70							
UL Gas	202.00	303.00							

Mid-East Currencies									
Currency	USD	DEM	GBP	CHF	JPY				
SA Riyal	0.2688	0.3967	0.17258	0.3241	28.7989				
AE Dirham	0.3723	0.50507	0.21633	0.33085	29.3068				
KW Dinar	3.3450	4.9776	1.6497	4.06889	301.272				
Qatar Dinar	0.3770	0.54633	0.21674	0.32373	286.451				

Heyns slashes 44 seconds off world mark as Poll upstages Van Almsick

United States strikes gold on 2nd day

ATLANTA (R) — The United States won their first two golds of the Atlanta Olympics on Sunday and swimmer Penny Heyns smashed her own world record to give South Africa their first Games title since 1952.

France's grand old lady of cycling, Jeannie Longo, finally captured an Olympic gold at the fourth attempt and was rewarded with a congratulatory call from President Jacques Chirac.

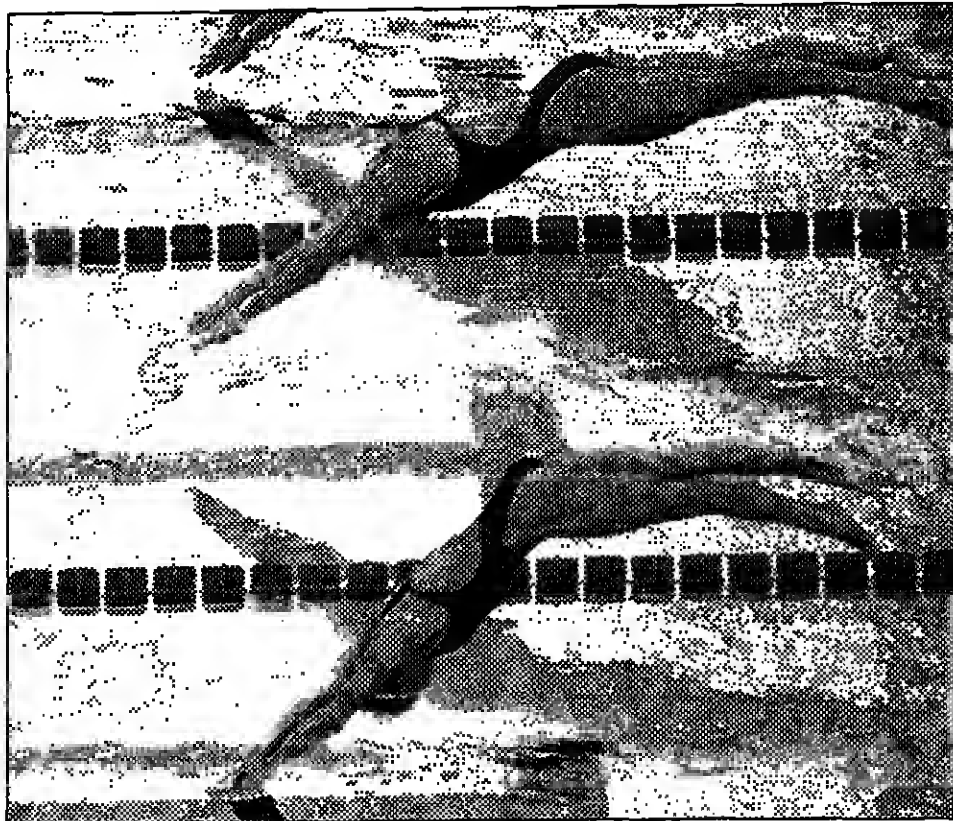
But with the Games only two days old, the organisers faced a chorus of protest after technical hitches, traffic gridlock and mammoth crowds threatened the world's greatest sports show.

The International Olympic Committee ordered red-faced officials to get it right and do it now. "This is worse than getting out of Vietnam after the fall of Saigon," grumbled one reporter trying to get to a venue. Muttous rowers even staged a sit-in and confronted police after being stranded by transport problems.

U.S. world champion Tom Dolan fought a battle royal with his compatriot Eric Namesnik in the 400 metres individual medley final for the honour of landing the first gold medal of the century Games for the host nation. The American team then added another in the 4x200 metres freestyle relay.

But the emotion of the battle with Dolan was too much for Namesnik, his constant rival and friend. As Dolan spoke to reporters, Namesnik sunk to the floor, his head in his hands, and wept.

With the super-fast swimming pool living up to its reputation, Penny Heyns beat her own world record by a hefty 0.44 seconds in the morning heats



South Africa's Penny Heyns (top) dives into the pool en route to a new world record time for the women's 100 metre breaststroke at the Atlanta Olympics. Heyns timed 1:07.02 during her heat. Kristine Quance of the United States dives at the bottom of the picture (Reuters photo)

before taking the 100 metres breaststroke final from 14-year-old American Amanda Beard. Costa Rica's Claudia Poll upstaged Germany's world champion Franziska Van Almsick to land the fourth swimming gold of the night — the 200 metres freestyle.

The Atlanta storm clouds turned out to have a silver lining for French veteran Longo who won the women's road race after astring of unlucky defeats in the last three Games.

"The rain gave me the opportunity to attack and make the race much tougher for the rest," said the 37-year-old.

But her compatriot, judoka Esther Escombe, ended her Atlanta Games in agony with a suspected leg fracture after being thrown by Italy's Ylenia Scapin.

After two days of competition, Poland led the medals table with four golds in judo, wrestling (2) and shooting.

Fredrik Deburghgraeve's world record and gold medal in the 100 metres breaststroke caused wild scenes in Belgium on Sunday, its national day. To add to the celebrations, Belgianuella Werbruggen won the women's lightweight judo gold.

In the men's trap, Michael Diamond won Australia's first Olympic shooting gold and said he hoped reaction to the massacre of 35 people at Port Arthur in Tasmania earlier this year would not result in the sport being excluded from the 2000 Games in his native Sydney. Russia claimed a gold-silver finish in the final of the women's 10 metres air pistol with Olga

Klochneva pipping Marinal Ogvinenko, who won the event in Barcelona four years ago. France's Laura Flessel took the gold in the women's individual epee while wrestler Yuri Melnicenko won Kazakhstan's first summer gold in the 57 kg Greco-Roman event.

In boxing, there was a row about the U.S. headgear. The Americans said an official kept questioning the kit even though it was in order. No such tensions for Canadian light-flyweight boxer Dominic Eiliari.

Beaten in his first bout, he calmly returned to his sewing. "You can't eat all your trophies and your tracksuits," he said, explaining why he is in the embroidery business. "This is a good endeavour for me."

Dream Team wants to frighten opponents

ATLANTA (R) — America's millionaire basketball players want to put a little fear back in the hearts of their Olympic opponents, if not the full-blown awe the original Dream Team inspired.

The U.S. Stars were sluggish for the first half of their eventual rout of Argentina in Saturday's opening match and centre David Robinson was still worrying at Sunday's off-day practice that other nations might be starting to believe that his team could actually be defeated.

"Last night, going into halftime, that team actually thought they could beat us with a few lucky turns," Robinson said. "We don't want that to happen, ever."

The Argentines trailed by just two points at halftime in Saturday night's game, and despite the 96-68 final scoreline, the Americans were searching for ways to "re-create that awe," as Robinson put it.

It was coach Lenny Wilkens who brought the "awe" concept up in the first place, but he says the "deep awe" that opponents felt for the original Dream Team cannot be repeated.

"I think that's a one-time thing," he said. "I think they respect our talent, but they're going to come out and play."

Forward Charles Barkley put it a little differently: "You're only a virgin one time in your life. You can't go back there."

But Robinson would like to try: "I think if we establish ourselves early in the game, and show them, 'hey, we're not playing around, this is no joke for us, we're here to play,' that awe will be there again, they'll think, 'well, we can't beat this team, there's no way.'"

Wilkens also believes that the first few minutes are the key to establishing dominance. "We have to be much more aggressive at the start of every game," he said.

In this case, Barkley saw it differently. "We're trying to blow everybody out in the first couple of minutes and that's not going to happen," he said.

"We're trying to compete too much with Dream Team I. We don't have to win by a certain number of points."

Barkley, who blamed the lateness of Saturday night's game for much of the Americans' problems, summarised: "We didn't play very well, but we won. We've got to adjust to the 10 o'clock starting time and I think we'll be fine."

He added: "Sometimes it's going to be a struggle for five, 15, 20 minutes. But in the long run we're going to wear the other team down and win."

Finnish shot-putter fails drug test

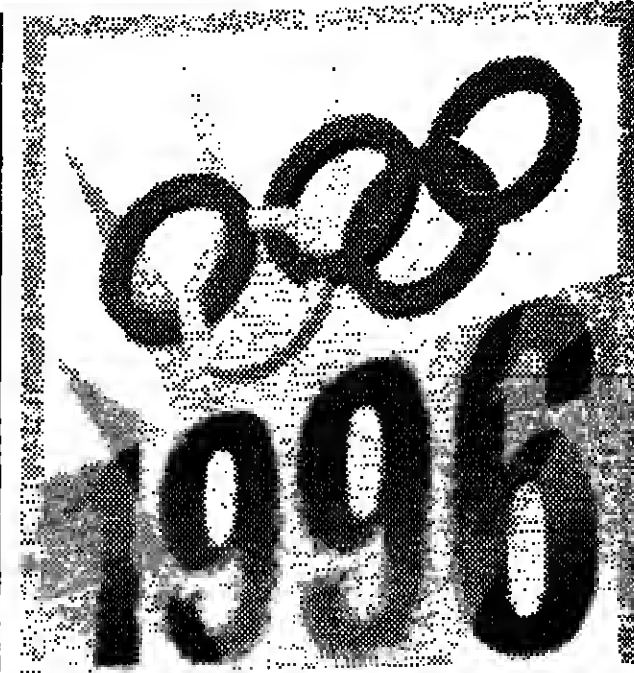
HELSINKI (R) — Finnish champion shot-putter Markus Koskinen has failed a doping test and it is not clear whether he will compete at the Atlanta Olympics, the Finnish Sports Association Suomen Urheiluliitto said on Monday.

The association would decide later on Monday what action to take, a spokesman said on Finnish Radio. He said Koskinen tested positive for an unspecified substance after winning the Finnish national championships in

tampere just over two weeks ago. Koskinen has not yet left Finland for Atlanta.

"It is a doping infringement," the spokesman said. If the association decided to act its first move would be to ban Koskinen in the short term from competition, he said.

Koskinen, 26, placed 10th at the world championships in Gothenburg, Sweden, last year and was fifth in the European Championships in 1994.



Schedule of JTV's Olympic coverage on Channel 2

Equestrian	14:30 - 15:30
Rowing	15:35 - 16:35
Gymnastics (ladies' team optional)	16:25 - 17:00
Swimming heats	17:00 - 17:25
Boxing preliminary	18:25 - 18:50
Summary A (Channel 1)	20:30 - 21:30
Fencing (men's epee team)	21:50 - 00:10
Gymnastics (ladies' team optional)	21:55 - 02:25
Wrestling (finals)	22:25 - 01:55
Weightlifting (70 kg final)	22:55 - 01:00
Judo, half-middleweight final	00:20 - 01:55
Summary B (Channel 1)	01:15 - 2:35
Swimming final	02:25 - 04:30
Boxing preliminary	02:55 - 06:10
Summary C (Channel 1)	07:00 - 8:30



Brazil forward Bebeto (left) shows his frustration July 21 as Japanese defenseman Hideto Suzuki (right) walks away in the second half of Olympic play in Miami. Japan upset Brazil 1-0 (Reuters photo)

Brazil, Italy upset

ATLANTA (R) — Favourites Brazil suffered a shock 1-0 defeat by Japan and a huge setback to their hopes of winning their first Olympic soccer title Sunday.

In two other upsets, European under-21 champions Italy lost 1-0 to unfancied Mexico and African powerhouse Ghana, 1992 Games bronze medalists, slumped 1-0 to South Korea.

Brazil, attempting to become the first country to hold both the World Cup and Olympic title since Italy in the 1930s, were rocked by an under-rated Japanese side whose heroic goalkeeper Yoshikatsu Kawaguchi made a series of fine saves.

Having dominated for much of the game in Miami, Brazil conceded a goal in the 70th minute when goalkeeper Dida and midfielder Flavio Conceicao collided after Dida failed to hold a rasping shot from Teruyoshi Ito and the ball rolled into the net.

Brazil, fielding 1994 World Cup heroes Bebeto, Aldair and Ronaldinho as well as Juninho, threw men forward in a desperate bid to find an equaliser, but Kawaguchi continued to deny them.

In the second-half he

made a point-blank save from Savio, stopped a curling free-kick from Juninho, turned a drive from Flavio Conceicao round the post and fisted away a rasping shot from Bebeto.

Japan, who were well organised and highly mobile in midfield, share top spot in Group D with Nigeria, who beat Hungary 1-0 in Orlando, Florida.

Italy, fielding World Cup goalkeeper Gianluca Pagliuca as one of their three over-age players in a tournament otherwise restricted to under-23s, went down to a late sucker-punch after having been content to defend for most of their Group C game in Birmingham, Alabama.

Francisco Palencia ghosted into the box to meet a cross from the left. Unmarked, he took his time to pick his spot and deliberately placed the ball past Pagliuca.

In the other Group C match, a highly-fancied Ghana — built around players from their under-17 world championship-winning sides of 1991 and 1995 — lost to a goal four minutes from halftime in Washington. Woon Jong-Hwan was the goalscoring hero for South Korea.

Tang's record signals Asia's strength

ATLANTA (R) — Tang Lingsheng broke the world bantamweight (54kg) record Sunday to give China its first Olympic weightlifting gold in 12 years.

Tang was left holding his record-breaking lift for what seemed like an eternity as one of the three judges' lights failed to come on, and he refused to put it down until his coach rushed on to the stage to tell him he had won.

The win announced to the long-dominant south-east Europeans and Russians that Asia's pre-olympic leadership of the world rankings in six weight classes was not just a

flash in the pan.

After all the main contenders lifted 137.5 kg in the snatch, Greece's Albanian-born world champion Leonidas Sabanis boasted 167.5 kg in the clean and jerk, forcing tang to lift a world record or lose the gold on his higher bodyweight.

Tang smoothly pushed the 170 kg bar aloft off his chest, equalling the world record for the clean and jerk and setting a new combined mark of 307.5 kg, 2.5 kg more than the previous record held by Bulgaria's Nikolai Peshalov.

Agassi, Seles seek gold standard

ATLANTA (R) — Andre Agassi and Monica Seles will have to cut short their sightseeing and get down to work Tuesday to help resurrect an Olympic tennis tournament which has lost a significant amount of gloss over the past week.

Agassi and Seles, respective top seeds following the injury withdrawals of Pete Sampras and Steffi Graf, both feature on the first day programme as organisers do their best to divert the U.S. public's gaze away from the dream team and the pool.

While both are millionaires who can afford just about any luxury in life, neither the Las Vegas showman nor the former Yugoslav prodigy can boast an Olympic medal in a drawer at home.

Agassi, whose father Mike represented Iran at boxing in the 1948 and 1952 Games, has already promised to "go out and bust my ass to win" even though his recent form — just two wins in five matches since April — is scarcely encouraging.

Seles too has been troubled by a persistent shoulder injury, yet without the two unlikely team mates the Olympic draw would be a sorry sight.

For assorted reasons, none of this year's men's Grand Slam champions is in Atlanta. Apart from world number one Sampras, Thomas Muster, Boris Becker, Michael Chang, Yevgeny Kafelnikov, Richard Krajicek and Jim Courier are all elsewhere, mostly through choice.

Muster has claimed tennis lacks Olympic tradition and prestige, conveniently ignoring the fact it was part of the Games schedule from 1896 to 1924. It returned as an exhibition sport in 1968 in Mexico City and in 1984 in Los Angeles, before becoming a medal sport once again in Seoul in 1988.

Defending champion Marc Rosset of Switzerland is around to launch the centre court action at Stone Mountain Park against little-known Moroccan Hicham Arazi, but the pre-tournament favourite is probably Goran Ivanisevic, seeded second behind Agassi, who begins against south African Marcos Ondruska on Wednesday.

He and the other leading seeds can all relax for an extra 24 hours, by which time they will know whether Agassi has survived

his tricky first round encounter with Sweden's Jonas Bjorkman, a fourth round finisher at both the Australian and French Opens this year.

Graf's recurrent knee injury has left the door ajar amongst the women for Spain's Conchita Martinez and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario, seeded second and third respectively and hoping to achieve on foreign soil what they failed to do four years ago at home.

The women's gold medalist from the 1992 Games in Barcelona, however, is nowhere to be seen. Jennifer Capriati's beaming smile as she stood on the winner's podium quickly faded as problems in her career and personal life mounted.

After two arrests and a hiatus from the sport, she began a serious comeback this year but her erratic form failed to win her a place on the U.S. team.

Nowadays the young American player regarded as a potential new star is Chanda Rubin, but the odds on her striking gold in Atlanta are lengthy. She has not played for five weeks after suffering a stress fracture of a bone in her wrist.

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British rower Matthew Flanagan (right) wins world and Olympic gold during their heat at the Atlanta Olympics. Flanagan won the heat (Reuters photo)



USA's Lisa Leslie (centre) is between Cuba's Yamillet Mari (left) and Henry (right) during the USA women's team win 101-81 (Reuters photo)

Louganis glad 1 of competition

ATLANTA (AP) — Greg Louganis, who shocked the world when he was diagnosed with AIDS, is happy to compete for 12 years in his "long enough" Louganis: "I'm actually glad I'm not competing on U.S. divers' home soil."

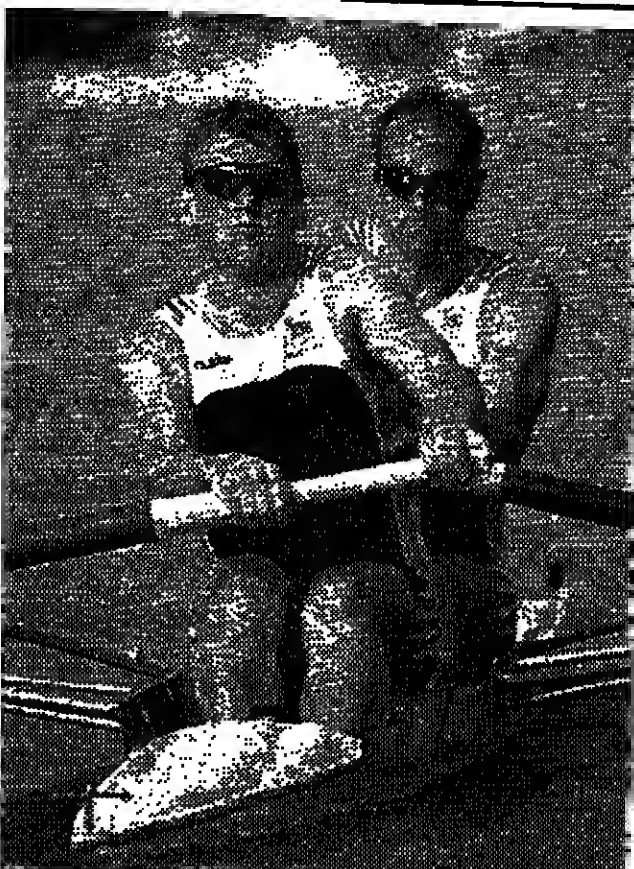
Louganis, 37, won gold in the 1988 Seoul Olympics and silver in 1992. He is competing in the 10m platform final Sunday.

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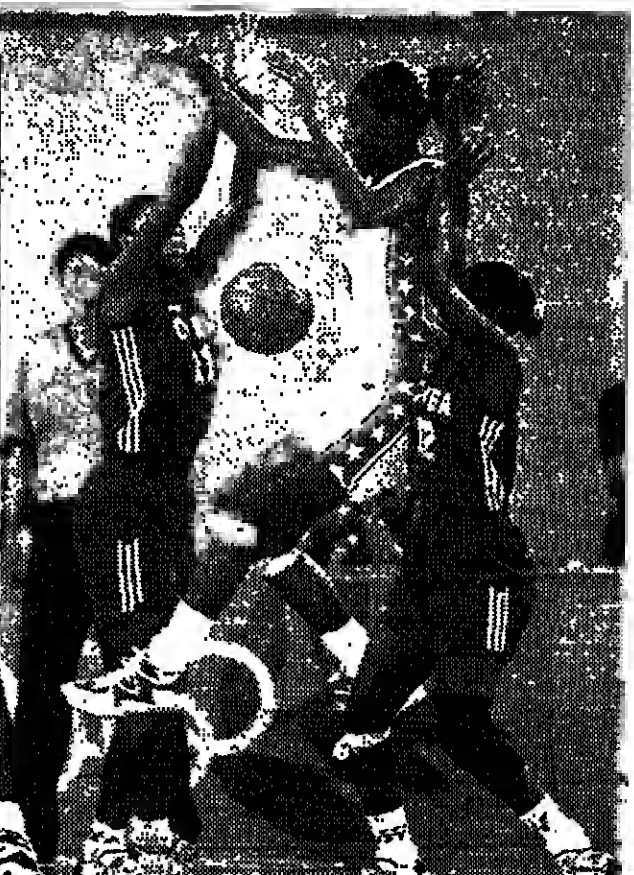
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British rowers Matthew Pincent (left) and Steven Redgrave, reigning world and Olympic champions, are pictured in action during their open heat of the coxless pairs at the Atlanta Olympics. Redgrave moved a step closer to a fourth consecutive Olympic title after comfortably winning the heat (Reuters photo)



USA's Lisa Leslie (centre) is unable to control the ball between Cuba's Yamilet Martinez (left) and Delia Hernandez Henry (right) during their basketball game. The USA women's team won the preliminary game 101 to 84 (Reuters photo)

Louganis glad to have stress of competition behind him

ATLANTA (AFP) — Greg Louganis, the Olympic diving legend who shocked the world when he announced last year that he has AIDS, is happy to be back at the Games, as a spectator.

"I competed for 12 years in world class competition, that's long enough," Louganis said. "I'm awfully glad I'm not competing," he said, adding that pressures on U.S. divers would be tremendous with the Games on home soil.

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Rush in your CV with references to P.O.Box 2168, Amman (Fax No. 06-659540) latest by July 29, 1996.

France's Essombe suffers broken leg

ATLANTA (R) — French judoka Estha Essombe was left writhing on the floor with a suspected leg fracture on Sunday when she was thrown by Italy's Ylenia Scapin in the under 72 kg event.

Scapin took the bronze medal with the fast ippon throw and waved to the crowds as Essombe was removed by stretcher.

Team medics said later they suspected Essombe's leg was broken. She was sent to hospital for further checks.

Belgium's Ulla Werbrouck took the gold in the event, and the silver went to Japan's Yoko Tanabe, a three-time Olympian who is bidding farewell to the games in Atlanta.

Cuba's Diadenis Luna, the 1995 world champion, shared the bronze with Scapin.

Three-time world judo champion Pawel Nastula of Poland won gold in the men's half-heavyweight division and dedicated his medal to the national team chief, who died during the Olympic opening ceremony.



France's Estha Essombe (right) yells in pain as she damages her leg and loses to Italy's Ylenia Scapin in the women's bronze medal 72-kg judo match (Reuters photo)

"His death came as a big shock to all of us," Nastula said. "Eugeniusz Pietrasik, who suffered a heart attack at Friday's ceremony."

"Nobody expected it, but it has mobilised all of our athletes. He is looking down on us and sharing our honours."

Nastula, 26, one of Europe's most consistent competitors, made quick work of 21-year-old South Korean student Kim Min-soo, the 1994 junior world champion. Less than two

minutes into the match he felled the younger man with a text-book ippon throw.

Kim reached the finals after a hard struggle against 30-year-old veteran Stephane Traineau of France, the 1991 world champion, whose drive for the gold at the 1994 Barcelona Games fizzled early.

Traineau won a bronze along with Brazil's Miguel Fernandes, a gold medalist in Barcelona in the under 95-kg event.

Kazakhstan win 1st medal

ATLANTA (R) — Yuri Melnichenko of Kazakhstan won his country's first summer Olympic gold Sunday and robbed the United States of a home victory by defeating world champion Dennis Hall in the 57-kg class Greco-Roman wrestling.

Hall, a shaven-headed 25-year-old, had attracted an enthusiastic home crowd to the Atlanta conference centre that is hosting the ancient Olympic sport.

But they were soon silenced when Melnichenko, the 1994 world champion, used his superior speed to take a 4-0 points lead in the first minute of the five-minute bout.

The only U.S. golds in Greco-Roman wrestling came at the Los Angeles Olympics, boycotted by the eastern bloc countries which have always dominated the sport.

The Poles were on top form and grabbed two of the five golds on offer in Sunday's session.

Andrzej Wroński, the 1988 Olympic and former world champion, ended what he said would be his last Olympics with victory over Sergei Lishtvan of Belarus.

Medals table after the 2nd day of competition			
Country	Gold	Silver	Bronze
Poland	4	0	0
France	3	2	3
Russia	2	2	1
China	2	2	1
United States	2	0	2
Belgium	2	0	0
Turkey	2	0	0
Italy	1	1	1
South Korea	1	1	1
Australia	0	0	0
Costa Rica	0	0	0
Ireland	0	0	0
Kazakhstan	0	0	0
New Zealand	0	0	0
South Africa	0	0	0
Germany	0	0	0
Belarus	0	0	0
Cuba	0	0	0
Yugoslavia	0	0	0
Spain	0	0	0
Belgium	0	0	0
Hungary	0	0	0
Canada	0	0	0
Yugoslavia	0	0	0

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Russian women edge U.S. team

ATLANTA (R) — Russia's women gymnasts, responding to an inspiring pep talk from coach Leonid Arkaev, grabbed a slender lead over the United States on Sunday after the compulsory exercises.

World champions Romania set the early mark in the morning session but were overtaken by the Americans, who in turn were caught by the Russians in a compelling competition that promises a sizzling showdown in later options.

"I told them they had to hit their landings, that we needed to do well in the vault," said Arkaev, who rallied his team around him before the crucial exercise.

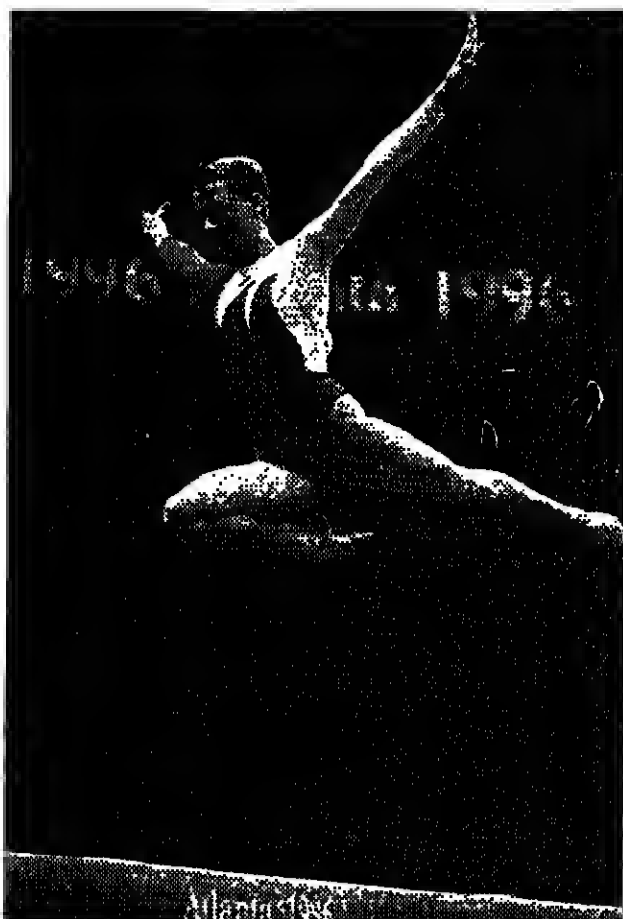
Russia totalled 193.796 points from 24 routines to lead the United States by a scant 0.127 of a point.

Romania were third another half-point back, followed by Ukraine and China.

The Americans looked as if they might run their medal chances to zero with four successive shaky performances on the beam.

Then came Shannon Miller's turn, and the five-time medalist in Barcelona put the U.S. Team back on course with the day's best beam performance, a 9.737.

Tiny Dominique Moceanu followed Miller with another superb routine on the gym-



Russia's Svetlana Chorkina performs in front of the crowd at the Georgia Dome. The gymnastics competitions will end July 30 (Reuters photo)

nastics' equivalent of the high wire and the U.S. side was off and running.

Results were disappointing for China, in both individual and team events. Beam

world champion Mo Huilan broke form coming out of e hands and on the uneven bars and took an uncharacteristic 9.437. She was 12th in the standings.

Kingdom's women's basketball championship starts today

By Aileen Bannayan
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Kingdom's basketball season moves into full gear Tuesday when the 1996 women's championship gets underway with three teams taking part.

While the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) has been unable to muster more than four teams in the competition for the past seven years, the encouraging factor may be that participating clubs have started taking a serious interest in their teams at the time the JBF has begun, focusing on national teams since last summer.

The three teams — Al Jazireh, Al Orthodoxi and Al Ahli — yesterday finished a friendly four-team tournament which also included a visiting team from Ramallah. Al Jazireh won the tournament with an unbeaten record 55-29 over Ramallah, 56-49 over Al Orthodoxi and 58-54 over Al Ahli in overtime.

Although the three teams' form appeared to be quite close, competition titleholders Al Jazireh might be the title favourites after also taking part in Al Jala' tournament in Aleppo Syria two weeks ago where they also won the four-team tournament after beating top Syrian teams Al Jala' 60-44, Al Horre 61-51, and Al Yarmouk 61-47.

Al Jazireh will be missing centres Jumana Salti through injury and Dima Shaded. However, Rana Hussein will be joining her team which includes Suhair Makusi, Hala Muheisen, Tala Al Mauge, Andeira Kas-esieh.

Al Orthodoxi have a new team mostly of under-18 players who represented Jordan in the Asian Championship recently. They include Lubna Masri, Jumana Awwad, Nadine Kaskash, Luma Abu Judum.

Al Ahli, includes Sirsa Abaza, Sirsa Naghaway, Hilba Enabeh, Rana Saeed.

Al Jazireh had first won the country's women's championship from Al Orthodoxi in 1993 before losing it in 1994 when they pulled out of the championship before reclaiming it last year.

Competition record

1989-1990 Orthodoxi, Ahli, Homentmen
1991 Orthodoxi, Ahli, Homentmen
1992 Orthodoxi, Ahli, Homentmen, Jazireh
1993 Jazireh, Orthodoxi, Ahli, Abu Nusair
1994 Orthodoxi, Ahli, Abu Nusair, Jazireh (withdrew)
1995 Jazireh, Ahli, Orthodoxi (withdrew)

Schedule of matches
(All at Sports Palace at 7:30 p.m.)
Round 1

Tue. 23/7 Ahli-Orthodoxi
Thurs. 25/7 Jazireh-Orthodoxi
Sun 28/7 Ahli-Jazireh

Round 2
Tue. 30/7 Ahli-Orthodoxi
Thurs. 1/8 Jazireh-Orthodoxi
Sat. 3/8 Ahli-Jazireh

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Palestinians have right to 'self-determination' in Jerusalem — Mubarak

CAIRO (AFP) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on Monday backed the right of the Palestinians to "self-determination" in Jerusalem, while underlining that Arabs still extended their hand in peace to Israel.

Mr. Mubarak said Arabs were "serious" in seeking "an historic reconciliation between Israelis and Arabs, including the Palestinian people who have the right to self-determination in Palestine and Jerusalem."

He said he transmitted this message to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu during their first face-to-face talks in Cairo last Thursday.

Mr. Mubarak made the comments in a speech to his government, broadcast live on state television, on the occasion of the 44th anniversary of the July 23 revolution.

Mr. Netanyahu has raised an outcry from Arab capitals with his hardline policies ruling out a return of the Golan Heights to Syria, the creation of a Palestinian state or any negotiations on the future of Jerusalem.

The right-wing Israeli leader struck a more moderate tone during his visit to

Cairo, although he refused to back off any of his positions. Mr. Mubarak pronounced himself more "relaxed" about Mr. Netanyahu's positions after the talks.

After the Netanyahu meeting, Mr. Mubarak insisted the Arabs did not seek a "divided" Jerusalem, which his foreign minister Amr Musa later clarified saying a "whole Jerusalem" did not mean wholly Israeli.

Israel claims the entire Holy City as its "eternal" capital, while the Palestinians want its eastern sector, occupied and annexed by Israel in 1967, as a capital for a future state.

Mr. Mubarak said he told Mr. Netanyahu "the Arabs' hand will remain extended to make peace, as long as Israel extends its hand to the Arabs."

Responding to the hardline Israeli leader's emphasis on security, Mr. Mubarak said he underlined to Mr. Netanyahu that "security must be for all."

"Regional security will only take hold if it is felt by all and if it is balanced and without exceptions," he said, adding that Egypt

seeks "security for all the Arab and non-Arab peoples of the region."

He said his meeting with Mr. Netanyahu aimed to "save the peace process from what has affected it lately due to developments on the Israeli side," referring to Mr. Netanyahu's victory over peace architect Shimon Peres in May elections.

Mr. Mubarak said he "spoke frankly about the dangers of the (Israeli) policy of retreat in the peace process and imposing faits accomplis" and "emphasised the need to create an atmosphere open to dialogue and negotiations."

Renewed negotiation must be made "on the same basis it has followed since the beginning, particularly the principle of land for peace and the accords reached so far by the Palestinians and Israelis," Mr. Mubarak said.

"The most important result" of his meeting with Mr. Netanyahu was that the Israeli leader left convinced "of the need to treat the Arab parties as equal partners" with Israel, Mr. Mubarak said.



BORDER POLICE WAVE PALESTINIAN MAN INTO JERUSALEM: An Israeli border police waves an elderly Palestinian man past a checkpoint on the West Bank into Jerusalem Monday. Israel delayed the planned easing of a five-month old closure of the West Bank and Gaza in the wake of the abduction of an Israeli Arab man from East Jerusalem by PLO security forces (Reuters photo)

Promise of Golan necessary for Syria, Israeli intelligence asserts

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli army intelligence has told Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu that Syria will not resume peace talks if it sees no chance of regaining the Golan Heights, an Israeli newspaper said on Monday.

"Syria will not continue the peace process with Israel if it thinks it will not get the Golan Heights," Haaretz quoted the head of military intelligence's research branch, Brigadier-General Yacov Amidror, saying in a report to Mr. Netanyahu.

Israeli officials were not available for comment. The army said it was checking the report.

The hardline Mr. Netanyahu, who ousted Shimon Peres in May 29 elections, is opposed to trading occupied Arab land for peace. Mr. Peres had suspended Syrian-Israeli peace talks after a wave of Islamic militant suicide attacks in Israel earlier this year.

"It is not clear to the Syrians how they can return to the

negotiating table without knowing ahead of time that they will get back the Golan, as they thought before," the daily said.

Syria said it was not convinced Mr. Netanyahu had softened his hardline policies after he told Egyptian officials last week that Israel would stick to the terms of reference of the 1991 Madrid Arab-Israeli talks, which laid down the principle of land-for-peace in talks between Israel and Arab countries.

Mr. Netanyahu has repeatedly said, most recently to foreign reporters on July 2, that Israel's return of the Sinai Peninsula under the 1979 peace treaty between the two states fulfilled Israel's land for peace obligation as the Sinai made up 90 per cent of the land Israel captured in the 1967 war.

Haaretz also said Brig.-Gen. Amidror believed broadening of Israel's links with the Arab World was contingent upon continuation of peace talks with the Syrians and

Palestinians.

Netanyahu a bad bet for peace — Syria

Meanwhile, Syria warned those still betting the new right-wing government in Israel would choose the path of peace that they were harbouring false and dangerous illusions.

"The bet is lost and will disperse Arab ranks and destroy the gains made at the last Arab summit" held in June in Cairo, wrote the daily Tishrin.

The comments came a day after Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa met with Syrian President Hafez Al Assad to give him a message from his Egyptian counterpart Hosni Mubarak.

Mr. Mubarak became the first Arab leader to hold talks with new Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Thursday and emerged saying he felt more optimistic about the peace process after their meetings.

Mr. Netanyahu has sparked

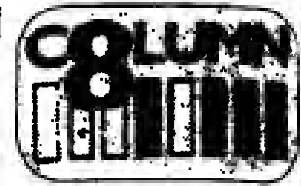
Arab alarm with his hardline stand on the peace process and refusal to trade further Arab land for peace.

Tishrin said that Mr. Netanyahu's coalition government of right-wing and religious parties "is not a government for peace."

"The only way to allow the Arabs to recover their rights is to strengthen their solidarity and to overcome the breaches made by Zionism in the Arab ranks," it added, referring to the separate peace accords signed by the Palestinians and Jordan with Israel.

The comments came as French Foreign Minister Herve de Charette was due in Syria Monday on the first leg of a Middle East tour aimed at giving fresh impetus to the peace process, on ice since February.

The English-language Syria Times said the visit showed the European interest shown in the region and "its role now, more than ever before, demanded."



American mugged after being offered drug-laced sweets

BUDAPEST (AFP) — An American tourist fell prey to a gang of robbers at the weekend after fellow passengers on a train offered him sweets laced with sedatives and then made off with his valuables, worth about \$20,000, police said Monday.

The 42-year-old unnamed U.S. citizen passed out after he was offered some cakes by fellow passengers in a train at Budapest's main Keleti Railway Station, and regained consciousness only hours later in a hospital in Vac, some 30 kilometres north of the capital, police said.

All his valuables and luggage, worth some \$20,000, were gone. Police refused to release the tourist's name and so far were unable to identify the drug-laced sweets.

A spokesman only added that the case was unprecedented in Hungary.

Church tells members to drink disinfectant

HONG KONG (R) — A Christian church group in Hong Kong caused a stir with reports that it instructs its members to drink a medicinal disinfectant in order to cleanse their body and soul despite dangers to their health.

The Church of Zion told worshippers to drink hydrogen peroxide, a commonly used antiseptic fluid applied to external wounds, the daily South China Morning Post newspaper said.

The paper quoted doctors as warning that drinking the liquid could cause seizures, respiratory failure and heart attacks.

China modernises ragtag army

BEIJING (R) — The days when peasants could become military commanders in China are over. Soldiers of the People's Liberation Army (PLA) cannot be promoted to the rank of officer unless they attend a military academy.

Hong Kong's Beijing-based Wen Wei Po newspaper said Monday. The Central Military Commission of the Communist Party introduced the requirement as part of efforts to modernise the PLA, the paper said.

Pavarotti tells of soccer dream

ATLANTA (R) — Italian tenor Luciano Pavarotti, on a visit to the Olympic Games, said his sporting dream was to play top-flight soccer. "I would like to lose a lot of weight, be very strong like (Alberto Tomba) and to play soccer," the larger than life opera star told a news conference at which he was joined by Olympic Alpine skiing champion Tomba. "I started to play in goal when I was four years old and always dreamed of playing for Italy," Pavarotti, a keen horseman, said the Olympic remained a great institution despite criticisms of their commercialism.

Brazil men turned off sex by tough times

BRASILIA (R) — Tough times in the Brazilian economy have taken a toll on the sexual performance of the country's males, a newspaper reported. A Sao Paulo cardiovascular surgeon told Estado de Sao Paulo that stress, as opposed to physical ailments, accounts for 60 per cent of men seeking his services.

That compared with 30 per cent in 1986 when Brazil began a series of austere, anti-inflation programmes.

Roberto Tullii told the newspaper. Even the average age of Dr. Tullii's patients has fallen to 37 from 47 years ago.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Militant jailed for belonging to illegal party

AMMAN (AFP) — A Jordanian has been jailed for four months on charges of belonging to an extremist illegal party in the first case of its kind, legal sources said Monday. Atta Abu Risteh was charged with being the spokesman for the "Islamic Liberation Party," which has never been recognised by the Jordanian authorities due to its extremist stand against the monarchy. In 1993 Jordan officially authorised most political parties banned in 1957 following an abortive coup blamed on ultra left-wing groups. Mr. Abu Risteh, of Palestinian origin, is already serving a three-year sentence imposed at the start of 1996 for slandering King Hussein.

Palestinian sentenced to 10 years

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — A Palestinian who attacked two Israeli border guards with a knife was sentenced to 10 years in prison on Monday, legal sources said. Montasser Jaber, 27, from Nablus in the West Bank, attacked two border guards in East Jerusalem in November after they tried to check his identity. The guards, who received light injuries to the head and chest, managed to overpower and detain Mr. Jaber. The Palestinian's defence counsel told the court his client reacted violently because he had been traumatised by a beating he had received from Israeli soldiers as a youngster. But the court's judges rejected his claims and said it was their duty to impose "an exemplary and deterring sentence so as to put an end to attacks on the security forces which were made commonplace by the intifada," the Palestinian uprising between 1987 and 1993.

Saudis cordon off street in bomb scare

DUBAI (R) — Saudi security forces on Monday cordoned off a Riyadi street and removed suspicious parcels after a bomb scare on the same block where five Americans and two Indians were killed by a car bomb last November, residents said. "We think it's explosives. It is dangerous, go inside," a resident quoted a Saudi soldier as telling bystanders shortly before residents heard what they thought were two small controlled detonations. Residents said there was a road block on Al Thalathin Street in the Olaiha district and police wearing body armour and helmets were on the scene. They said U.S. troops and armoured trucks were also there. Residents said they heard two small blasts. "After the small explosions I saw them remove part of a carton. Although they said three boxes, we heard only two small explosions," one said. Security at a large compound housing Americans on the street has been stepped up following the June 25 bombing of a U.S. military housing complex in Dhahran, eastern Saudi Arabia.

More deaths imminent in prison hunger strikes

ANKARA (AFP) — More deaths were feared imminent among scores of hunger-striking left-wing convicts in Turkish jails after one prisoner died at the weekend, authorities said Monday. "Four hunger strikers in (Istanbul's) Bayrampasa and Umraniye prisons are in critical condition," Istanbul's Chief Prosecutor Ferzan Cici told reporters. However, the left-wing Istanbul-based newspapers Cumhuriyet and Demokrası said that the number of hunger strikers near death throughout the prisons was much higher. "The hunger strikers unfortunately won't accept medical treatment," Mr. Cici said. The hunger strike started by scores of leftist prisoners to protest against poor living conditions in jails entered its 64th day Monday. Hundreds of other prisoners are supporting these activists by holding rotational hunger strikes. Aygun Ugur, a member of the outlawed Marxist TKP/ML (Turkish Communist Party/Marxist-Leninist), who had been sentenced to a 12-and-a-half year prison term for involvement in terrorist acts, died in Umraniye prison Sunday on the 63rd day of his hunger strike.

Saudi Arabia lifts visa ban on Nigerians

LAGOS (AFP) — Saudi Arabia has lifted restrictions on the movement imposed early this year on Nigerians following an outbreak of meningitis, a Saudi embassy official said Monday in Kano, northern Nigeria. After the lifting of the ban at the weekend visas to Nigerian travellers will again be issued on Aug. 2, Sheikh Usmana Al Jowhar, the Saudi consul general in Kano, said. Despite assurances by the Nigerian government, Saudi authorities barred 30,000 Nigerians from observing this year's holy pilgrimage to Mecca and Medina for fear that the potentially lethal disease could spread to Saudi Arabia. More than 300 Nigerian pilgrims were deported on their arrival in Saudi Arabia.

Afeworki rules out armed clash with Sudan

CAIRO (AFP) — Eritrean President Isaias Afewerki ruled out the possibility of an armed conflict between his country and Sudan despite their differences and troubles along their border.

"We will not enter into a military conflict with the Khartoum regime. These are only unfounded speculations," Mr. Afewerki told the Monday issue of the Arab weekly Al Wasat, received in Cairo.

"Our countries can get beyond such confrontations," he said.

Khartoum warned Asmara twice in early July against any move to invade its territory after the death of two Sudanese policemen in a mine explosion near the border with Eritrea.

Asmara is a base for the National Democratic Alliance, the main Sudanese opposition coalition, which Khartoum has accused of planting mines, attacking farmers and smuggling along the Eritrean border.

"We have a commitment in principle to support and assist the Sudanese opposition whether from the north or the south," Mr. Afewerki said, adding Eritrea "will not hesitate to offer all types of aid possible."

He denied accusations by Khartoum that Eritrea allowed contraband weapons to flow through the country to opposition in Sudan.

MUSCAT (AFP) — The top policy adviser to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu agreed with Omani officials here Monday that their countries should pursue normalisation of relations. Israel's trade representative said.

Dore Gold met with Omani Foreign Minister Yusef Ben Alawi Ben Abdullah after arriving here from Qatar during the first high-level trip to the Gulf by the new right-wing Israeli government, representative Oded Ben Haim told AFP.

"They talked about the continuation of the normalisation and agreed it should be continued but the pace should be agreed between the two countries — it is related to the peace process," Mr. Haim

From the Jerusalem Post

ISRAEL IS likely to favour a continuation of the estimated \$75 million in U.S. aid to the Palestinian Authority (PA), sources have said. If Israel plans to affect the U.S. decision on the matter, it must act before an Aug. 15 deadline.

It remains unclear whether the Israeli government will send a signal to Washington, as its predecessor did, that it actively favours aggressive lobbying of Congress or will act in a more passive manner.

At the same time, it is clear the government will insist upon Palestinian compliance with the standards established by Congress in the Middle East Peace Facilitation Act. The act establishes a yardstick

for Palestinian compliance in such areas as curbing terror, desisting from PA activity in Jerusalem, and ensuring the Liberation Organisation (PLO) amends its covenant.

On July 15, President Bill Clinton issued a certification that the Palestinians were abiding by their commitments. According to U.S. law, both houses of Congress have 30 days to vote disapproval of Mr. Clinton's certification or the appropriated funds are released.

The U.S. provides about \$75 million in assistance to the Palestinians, but only an estimated \$10 million go to the operating budget of the PA; the remainder goes to infrastructure and private sector

projects.

Last year's appropriation for the PA operating budget is currently being held up by House International Relations Committee chairman Benjamin Gilman (Rep.-NY).

Beyond the U.S. assistance, there is also an estimated \$25 million in U.S.-backed guarantees and credits available to American investors in the territories.

The issue of assistance to the PA presents a dilemma for Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Last year, he told congressional Republicans not to assist the PA, because it did not live up to its commitments. He also argued in his campaign that Israeli assistance to the Palestinians should be curbed, if not eliminated.

But since taking office, Mr. Netanyahu has reiterated that he is interested in Palestinian economic success and, to this end, favours a gradual easing of the closure. A move to cut U.S. aid could lead other countries to do likewise, putting more pressure on Israel to provide economic assistance instead.

There are also indications that Mr. Netanyahu assured Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak last week that he wants the current level of \$2.1 billion in U.S. aid to Cairo to continue. The Egyptians fear greater congressional pressure on their aid programme, especially since Mr. Netanyahu offered to accept unspecified aid cuts in the future.

Israel, Oman to continue moves toward normalisation

Gold told the Omani foreign minister of "Israel's commitment to respect the peace accords with the Arabs and continue the peace process."

It was the first visit by an Israeli official to Doha and Muscat since right-wing leader Netanyahu defeated peace architect Shimon Peres in May 29 elections in Israel.

Mr. Alawi briefed Mr. Gold on the stand taken by Egypt, Syria and the six Gulf Arab states when they met on July 14 in Muscat as the group that signed the Damascus Declaration on regional security after the 1991 Gulf war.

The Damascus group urged the international community to pressure the Jewish state into respecting commitments made on the peace process and supported Syria's stand

in its deadlocked negotiations with Israel.

Mr. Gold arrived from Qatar where Mr. Haim said he met Qatar's Foreign Minister Sheikh Hamad Ben Jasssem Al Thani but the visit went unmentioned by the official Qatari News Agency (QNA) and pro-government newspapers.

Mr. Gold's mission is to convince the governments of the Gulf states of Mr. Netanyahu's commitment to pursuing the Middle East peace process, officials in Jerusalem said.

Qatar and Oman are the only Gulf Arab countries which have begun fledgling ties with the Jewish state, agreeing to open economic cooperation offices. But following Mr. Netanyahu's elec-

tion victory and his tough policy stand on the peace process, Qatar said it would put on hold the opening of its trade mission in Israel to see if Mr. Netanyahu would continue to pursue peace. Israel has sent diplomats to open a trade office in Doha. Mr. Gold's visit to the Gulf follows Mr. Netanyahu's meeting in Cairo last week with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak who said he was optimistic for the future of the peace process.

He is due to leave Oman on Tuesday.

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New currency coin

AMMAN (R) — The Central Bank of Jordan, introduced new 100 Jordanian Dinar (JD) coins, which are the same design as the 100 JD coins introduced in 1988, but with the reverse side featuring the King of the Hashemite Kingdom, King Hussein bin Talal, and the Hashemite emblem.

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Sultan Qaboos, Senegal president congratulate King

AMMAN (R) — His Majesty King Hussein bin Talal received telegrams from Sultan Qaboos of Oman and President Abdou Diouf of Senegal congratulating him on his 50th birthday.

The King of the Hashemite Kingdom, King Hussein bin Talal, celebrated his 50th birthday on Monday, July 23, 1996.

Bundestag president starts visit

AMMAN (R) — President of the German Bundestag, Hans Eichel, started his official visit to Jordan on Monday, July 23, 1996.

President Eichel is on a three-day visit to Jordan, which includes meetings with King Hussein bin Talal and Prime Minister Zaid Al-Rikabi.

U.N. panel approves payments for Gulf war losses

GENEVA (R) — Buoyed by a decision by the U.N. panel to award \$323 million to Iraq's claims, the U.N. Compensation Commission approved payments to some 10,000 individuals who had losses during the Gulf war.

The commission had enough votes to pay only \$14 million out of the \$200 billion claimed. The so-called "oil for food" agreement is expected to provide the compensation fund with \$10 million each month.

Bodies of 3 missing since 1994 found

AMMAN (AFP) — Builders have accidentally found the remains of three people in a mud-buried jeep who had been missing since flash floods struck the northern area of the Kingdom in 1994. Two Jordanians, aged 36 and 37, and a 23-year-old Egyptian labourer, were spotted missing after the flood in Maifraq, 72 kilometres northeast of Amman. The bodies were found Monday when a truck struck a Toyota Landcruiser totally submerged in the mud. The contractor who was working near the flood site, immediately informed the police, who found three decomposed bodies in the vehicle.

Hundreds said dead in Libyan mutiny

CAIRO (AFP) — A mutiny in a Libyan jail containing political prisoners left hundreds dead among guards and detainees, the Libyan opposition in Cairo said Tuesday.

According to information from Libyans who have travelled to Egypt, the mutiny erupted on July 5 in the Abu Salim Prison near Tripoli. Hundreds of political prisoners and officers, an opposition leader told AFP, asking not to be named.